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A PICTURESQUE GUIDE

THROUGH

WALES

AND

THE MARCHES;

INTERSPERSED WITH THE MOST

INTERESTING SUBJECTS OF ANTIQUITY

IN THAT

PRINCIPALITY.

THE SECOND EDITION;

WITH CONSIDERABLE ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

By JAMES BAKER.

VOL. II

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M,DCC,XCV.

G.R.
III.

INTRODUCTION.

FROM toilſome ſojourn o'er the Cambrian cliffs,
Where daſhing waters laſh the foaming ſhores
With ceaſeleſs tumult, now I turn my courſe
Where ſtilly move, amidſt embow'ring ſhades,
The *Severn*, *Uſk*, and the ſublimer *Wye*.
With flow'ry margins, that in pride outvie
The golden ſhores of Pactolus and Nile;
I'll mark the varied proſpects riſing thence,
And match from Nature all the fancied forms
The poets feign'd in their Idalian bow'rs—
Of rocks, of woods, the lawns, and purple groves,
The caſtles, bulwarks, and the buttreſs forts
That ſometimes ornament the prouder hill,
Or mark their image on the heedleſs ſtream:
Some ruſtic minſtrel thence may chear my way
Thro' cavern'd glens and lead me to his lodge,
Deep ſcoop'd within the cliff; whoſe grateful mind
Attunes to tales of legendary lore—
In *Arthur's* praiſe may chaunt the Druid lay,
Tell much of *Tudor*, *Rees*, and *Howel Dda*;
Or ſad *Caradacus's* fate deplore.

Soft and ſerene be life's pure wane to you,
Ye ſilver-headed ſwains, whoſe artleſs toil
So richly decorates theſe inland plains
With crowded herbage and the cluſt'ring fruits,
" Pomaceous mingled with the curling growth
" Of tendril hops that flaunt upon the poles"—
Speed ye to point me every *campaign track*,
And *deep entrenchment*; whence the alien hoſts
That whilom drifted your unſhelter'd wilds,
Pour'd forth their prowling legions, fell as death!
And ſwept your native freedom from the land.

Next will I gain intelligence from you,
Whoſe taſte refin'd may dreſs the ſeats of pride,
And vaſt domains of each provincial lord;
Who lays the paths and plants the bounding plains
With groves promiſcuous, or the blended ſhrubs.
By countleſs pines that creſt th' encircling hills,
Or oaks far rank'd acroſs the woods, you know
The early *chiefs* or *marchers* old domain,

But more ſolicitous I'll ſeek your aid,
Whoſe practic'd genius and ſcholaſtic bent
Can aid my ſteps thro' all the devious wilds
Where more myſterious *Science* makes its way:
Not the imperious critic who diſmays,
Nor ſtubborn pedant, nor the crafty wit;
But he whoſe affable communing mind
Is mov'd by nature to the deeds of worth.

A GUIDE

A

GUIDE THROUGH WALES.

TOUR from *Gloceſter* to *Carmarthen*.

GLOCESTER.

I AM only authoriſed to ſpeak of this city as it incidentally connects itſelf with my given plan of the countries I have to deſcribe; it appears to have been called by the Britons *Caer Glow*, (fair city) and thence derived its preſent name of Gloceſter; and, according to the Atlas Geographus, it was firſt eſtabliſhed by the Romans, to check the frequent incurſions of the Silures, who are deſcribed as the moſt hardy and daring tribe of all the Britons: it appears to have continued a defenſive ſtation againſt that people ſo late as King Henry II. when it was repreſented as "ſuffering greatly from the incurſions of the Welch;" and from hence was the famous Conſular Way that leads through Wales to St. David's.

MARCHES OF WALES.

Notwithſtanding the inhabitants of theſe diſtricts, by their long ſeparation from the principality,

cipality, and change of habits, are ſo far alienated from their ancient character, there is ſtill ſuch a combination in the hiſtories of each, as renders this temporary union of them indiſpenſable. They are deſcribed by ſome as frontier counties, whoſe duty ſeems to have been to check their Welch neighbours. In theſe counties, ſays *Cambden*, "Certain Noblemen were intitled Barons Marchiæ, Lords Marchers, who exerciſed within their reſpective liberties a ſort of Palatine Juriſdiction, and held Courts of Juſtice to determine controverſies among neighbours, and preſcribed for certain privileges and immunities, one of which was that the King's Writs ſhould not run here in ſome cauſes, but whatever controverſies aroſe concerning the rights of the ſeveral Baronies, or their extent, they were only determinable in the King's Courts of Juſtice": and of Cheſhire he ſays, "It enjoyed all Sovereign Juriſdiction within its own precincts, and that in ſo high a degree that the ancient Earls had Parliaments of their own Barons and Tenants. Theſe high and unaccountable Juriſdictions were thought neceſſary upon the Marches and borders of the kingdom."

Drayton ſays, "By the March is underſtood thoſe limits betwixt England and Wales, which continued from north to ſouth to join the Welch Shires to the Engliſh; until Henry VIII. by

by an Act of Parliament, annexed ſome to Wales and others to England: The Barons that lived in them were called Lords Marchers (or Marquiſſes), and hence it is ſuppoſed the original of that Hon. title of Marquis, which is as much as a Lord of a Frontier; although I know divers others are the derivations which the Feudiſts have imagined. From another writer it appears, that when the Romans had ſubdued this part of the country, they divided it into Britannia Prima and Secunda. Glocesterſhire, as it happened, lay in both provinces, for the country on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the Severn, lay in Britannia Prima, and was governed by the Preſident reſiding in London; and the other part beyond the Severn was in Britannia Secunda, and was governed by the Preſident reſiding in Carleon.

" Theſe lands, in antiant times, old Cambria claim'd her due,
" For refuge when to her the oppreſſit Britains flew.
" By England now uſurpt, who paſſt the wonted meers,
" Her ſhure and ſovereine bank had taken ſundry ſhires,
" Which ſhe her marches made."
" Could England not ſuffice, but that the ſtrygling Wye,
" Which in the heart of Wales was ſometime ſaid to lie,
" Now only for her bounds proud England did prefer!
" That Severn when ſhe ſees the wronge thus offer'd her—
" Tho' by injurius time deprived of that place
" Which antiantly ſhe held."

[*Drayton's* POLY ALBIAN.]

At the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, four Lords Marchers of Wales did claim in their

right to provide ſilver ſpears, and bring them to ſupport the canopy of purple ſilk uſed in that ceremony, viz. John de Monmouth, John Fitz Allen, Ralph de Mortimer, and Walter de Clifford.

GLOCESTER to ROSS.

This part of the Marches adjoining the Severn, and which comes firſt to my notice, was called, according to Sir John Price, Cantref Coch, and was the 7th cantred of Morganwe or Glamorganſhire; and there is great authority to ſuppoſe it was a part of thoſe long conteſted Welch poſſeſſions which firſt gave way to the Engliſh Government. Mr. *Lewis* ſays, in his day, "In North Wales the Welchmen keep their old bounds; but in South Wales the Engliſh have come over Severn, and have poſſeſſed all the land between it and Wye, ſo that all Herefordſhire and the Foreſt of Dean and Gloceſterſhire, and a great part of Worceſterſhire and Shropſhire, are inhabited by the Engliſh."

A coach paſſes three times a week from the lower George Inn, Gloceſter, through Roſs, Monmouth, Abergavenny, Brecon, Trecaſtle, Landovery, and Landilo, to Carmarthen. This road is often preferred to the more Southern one, by travellers from London to Milford; it is ſeveral miles nearer than the latter, and brings to obſervation

ſervation ſome of the richeſt portions of the ſhires of Gloceſter, Hereford, and a principal part of Brecon and Carmarthen. A greater variety of rural ſplendor is no where found than where it tracks the margins of the Wye, the Uſk, and the Taff; for ſome of the moſt beautiful rock ſcenery in nature ariſes to ſight at your courſe upon the firſt; when you are upon the ſecond, are ſeen ſome of the grandeſt mountains in all South Wales; and through the inland county of Brecon, and for a long journey that it makes near the borders of Taff, there ariſes ſuch variety of expanſive views, as do much to compenſate for the loſs of thoſe numberleſs marine ſubjects which are ſo often expoſed to the ſouthern paſſage.

A conſiderable ſpace of moor land appears anciently to have bordered the Severn for ſome way on the Engliſh ſide, and which might prevent the ancient ſettlers from forming the City or Fortreſs (now Gloceſter) ſo near the channel of that river, as others whoſe eſtabliſhment upon it appear to have ariſen from the ſame principle; but on the former place having acquired ſo conſiderable a ſhare of trade and commerce, a canal was drawn from the river, by which ſhips of ſmall burthen might reach this city. The diſtance of this water from where it ſeparates from its old courſe to where it again falls into it,

is about two miles. A commodious cauſeway road is now raiſed acroſs the whole level, whereby paſſengers are ſecured from the overwhelming floods to which the Severn is ſo particularly ſubject.

About two miles on this ſtage is Higham, a handſome ſeat of Sir John Guiſe, Bart. from which the road continues upon a gradual aſcent for ſome miles, through a well-cultivated country. The principal proprietors of the lands are the worthy Baronet above-mentioned, and E. Probin, Eſq. At Huntley Gate this road divides with one to Mitchel Dean, Colefort, and Monmouth; and near the ſame ſpot is the diviſion of the Counties of Hereford and Gloceſter.

From Huntley Gate the road leads, on the right hand, to a country of new character—It is ſingularly romantic, woodland hills and irregular dingles are the principal features, the few intervening valleys not being of ſufficient ſpace for good deſigns in huſbandry. It has at times fallen into numberleſs ſmall poſſeſſions for ſuch ancient natives as were moſt provident for their ſucceſſors; ſuch among the latter, who have not ſecured a perfect freedom to it, are only ſubject to ſmall acknowledgments of Lord's rent, &c. It is admirable to obſerve with what artful frugality each ſubdivided portion of their little inheritances are managed; the earth being particularly grateful to the

the growth of apples, every corner and fence is crowded with their cultivation, and "every rood of ground maintains its man."

MAY HILL,

Near this way, is an engaging object to a great diſtance of country about it. It is diſtinguiſhable from others of the neighbourhood by its conic form riſing majeſtically above them, from its ſides being dreſſed with the rareſt native ornaments, and having on its brow a flouriſhing creſt of exotic firs.

Strangers are always directed to this eminence for contemplation on the rich ſcenery ariſing near its feet, and to a proſpect of the vaſt vale which connects itſelf to the Severn all the way from Worceſter to Kingroad. It is ſuppoſed to derive its name from a cuſtom immemorable among the youthful villagers in its vicinity, to collect, each Spring, upon its brows of ſmooth verdure, and revel out their ſeveral aſſignations of innocent and ſeaſonable recreations.

Nearer Roſs the proſpects enlarge, more extenſive plains expand at times with great advantage upon the hills, expoſing ſuch proſpects of many-coloured arables, paſturage, and thriving orchards of cyder trees, as are rare examples of improved vegetation.

At

At Bury Hill are remaining marks of early Roman fortifications, and at Penyard Wood there are ſome ſmall tokens of an ancient caſtle called Penyard Caſtle; but there are not any proofs of their origin or eſtabliſhment.

ROSS

Is a free borough town, ſo made by Henry III. it is anciently deſcribed to abound with ſmiths, which prove that the manufactory of nails, which is carried on in this place and neighbourhood, is of long eſtabliſhment. There is here a very conſiderable market; the town is on a riſing eminence, on the top of which, above the whole, is a very handſome church, decorated with a lofty and neat ſpire.

The Church yard is ornamented with handſome tombs, beſides the parts appropriated for the caſual reſt of unprovided nature: ſeveral neat walks are formed therein, to accommodate thoſe travellers or inhabitants of the place, who can receive proper enjoyment from the extraordinary beauties which are every way diſplayed upon the encircling proſpects. The following general character of them, was written for me, and preſented by a friend, whoſe kindneſs is moſt favourable to my wiſhes.

Written

Written upon the LOOK-OUT WALK, ROSS.

" Wou'd you to have, in heav'nly feature thrown,
All nature's charms before your eyes,—
From this umbrageous ſpot you'll freely own,
The landſcape all theſe charms ſupplies.

Yon groves that wreathe the ſmiling hills around,
Dwell on the ſight in verdant green;
While cluſt'ring orchards, blooming o'er the ground,
Give beauty to the lovely ſcene.

See, ſportive Wye tranſlucent murm'ring glide
Adown the daiſy-dappled mead,
Curling its ſilver wave in modeſt pride,
And through the winding valley ſpread.

How graceful ſweeps that ſteep and gloomy ridge,
Mantl'd in cloſe-knit maze with wood;
How bold the fair-arch'd, far beſtriding bridge,
That dares the fury of the flood.

Awful thoſe mountains at dim diſtance climb
In majeſty and duſky hue,
Bearing aloft their hoary heads ſublime,
And crown the ſweet enchanting view."

H.

The *Look-out* is a fair walk adjoining the church-yard; it is a part of the eminence from which there is the beſt view of the river Wye, and other inland parts of Herefordſhire, ſome of the mountainous parts of Breconſhire, Monmouthſhire, &c. Another pleaſant walk leads from the church, to paſs ſome fruitful encloſures, and thence again to traverſe other bending heights

heights that overlook the river; it is near a mile in length; different ſeats are fixed beneath ſpacious ſhades of elms, and at other favorite ſituations, for the accommodation of its viſitors, and a neat ſummer-houſe at the end of all for their occaſional refreſhment or ſhelter. It is more particularly diſtinguiſhed from its being a gratuitous offering to the public from the renowned MAN OF ROSS, ſo celebrated by *Pope*, that other eulogiums are needleſs. There is another proper memorial of him in the church; and you are ſhewn an humble imitation of his portrait at the King's Arms Inn, which is the principal carriage Inn; but there are other good houſes of accommodation. Several genteel families have reſidences in different parts of this town; and the ſtreet, which leads from a large old market-houſe into the Ledbury road, is long and ſpacious; others are ſmall and very irregular.

The ROAD *from* GLOCESTER *to* CHEPSTOW

Divides from the Roſs road near Higham: it is generally low and near the courſe of the river Severn, but the country it paſſes is moſtly in a good ſtate of cultivation, and at every ſpot where the traveller is in a ſmall degree elevated, the eye has to wander over boundleſs hills of woodland, which all the way to the right characteriſe the Foreſt of Dean; upon the left it has

to

to reſt upon the green borders of the widening river; and more eaſtward, it lights upon the beſt proſpects of the Bird-lip, Robin-hood, and others of thoſe vaſt mountains that proudly rank themſelves upon the borders of the vale on the Engliſh ſide. As I ſhall in this paſſage be ſometimes caſually led into the bounds of

DEAN FOREST,

The following narratives are perhaps properly placed. It has heretofore been conſidered to extend to the river Severn; its bounds were once of much greater dimenſions than they now are. About two hundred years ſince, it was eſtimated to contain 30,000 acres of land, whereas it is now reckoned at 23,520. The oak it produces is conſidered ſuperior to all others for ſhip building: it was once perhaps the richeſt nurſery of that wood in the iſland; it appears to have been conſidered by our enemies ſo eſſential to the Britiſh navy, that thoſe who commanded the Spaniſh Armada in 1558, were expreſſly ordered to deſtroy this foreſt. It abounds much with minerals; the coal, lime, and iron-ſtone mines are very extenſive and productive; the latter were greatly uſed by the Romans. Upon the northern borders of this foreſt a gold mine is ſaid to have been likewiſe found, but it did not prove ſufficiently productive to anſwer the expence of working it.

Beſides the vaſt portions of theſe bounds that were crouded with underwood and coppice, there muſt have been ſpaces where the ſhrubs and herbage to a conſiderable degree have flouriſhed, becauſe for many years it has been particularly noticed for its abundant breed of deer; the whole ſucceſſion of all theſe congregated tribes remains now in a few ſtragglers that have here and there eſcaped the general treſpaſſes that are made upon property of ſimilar holding.

It is all the property of the Crown, and is divided into ſix walks, each walk has its different keeper and lodge, and there is another building in the midſt of the foreſt, called, the Speech-houſe, where there is a Swainmote Court regularly held to preſerve the vert and veniſon, the judges of it are the verdurers choſen by the free-holders of the county. The miners have alſo a court in this foreſt, which is directed by a ſteward appointed by the conſtable of the foreſt; and juries of miners, who have their particular laws and cuſtoms by which they are governed. Some ancient inhabitants of theſe wilds were once ſtigmatiſed with a character of peculiar barbarity, and are repreſented to have wholly depended upon the plunder and ravages of their neighbours for ſupport; and we find in Hen. VI. a particular Act of Parliament was framed to reſtrain the miſchiefs on the banks of the Severn!

Drayton

Drayton particularly remarks on the robberies which he ſays were "committed along that ſhore by ſuch as lurked in theſe ſhady receptacles."

"Here Queen of Foreſts, all that Weſt of Severn lie,
Her broad and buſhy top, Dean holdeth up ſo high;
Within her hollow woods the Satyres that did wonne,
In gloomy ſecret ſhades not pierc'd with ſummer's ſunne,
Under a falſe pretence the Nymphs to entertaine,
Oft raviſhed the choiſe of Sabrin's wat'ry train;
And from their miſtriſs bank then taking as a prey,
Into their wooddie caves have carried them away."

[*7th Song of Drayton's* POLY ALBION.]

High Grove has a handſome ſituation on the right, the ſeat of —— Evans, Eſq. and at Weſtbury is a large and elegant manſion, the reſidence of Maynard Colcheſter, Eſq. it was erected in the year 1743, but the ſituation was ill-choſen for ſo good a deſign.

Near Weſtbury, a road lead on the right hand to Roſs, paſſing Flaxly Abbey, the ſeat of Sir Crawly Bovey, Bart. At this place was once an abbey of Ciſtercian Monks, founded by Roger the 2d. Earl of Hereford, in the reign of King Henry I, and dedicated to the Bleſſed Virgin. It was called Flaxly Abbey of St. Mary-de-Dean. It had a forge in the foreſt of Dean for iron; and the Abbots were allowed a certain portion of the woods. It was valued at 112l. 13s. 11d. It is on the ſide of a very fruitful valley that continues

tinues ſinking from the higheſt lands all the way to the Severn; and it brings with it a very copious ſtream of water, which ſerves ſeveral furnaces and mills in its way. This river has its principal riſe in the pariſh of Ebenhall, from a ſpring that had formerly great reputation for its mineral qualities.

There is farther tradition that a religious man (St. Anthony) ended his holy life in a cave that he conſtructed within a deep receſs near this ſpring, and that it hath, from this circumſtance, been ſince called *St. Anthony's Well.*

NEWNHAM.

This was anciently a corporation town; it was incorporated by King John, who preſented it with a Sword of State, which Sword is now in the poſſeſſion of one of the inhabitants, containing the following curious device:

"John Morſe being Mayor,
"This Sword he did repair."

It appears to have been incorporate ſo late as Queen Elizabeth, and to have had conſiderable markets, but theſe privileges are now quite loſt; and its preſent dependence is principally on the paſſengers in their way through the country, and to its ferry over the Severn; ſome trade too is at its quays in ſhipping the produce of the neighbouring

bouring country. The ancient town appears to have been for a great way encircled with deep entrenchments, within the bend of which may be traced the ſcite of a large Citadel; all theſe works were apparently Roman, and there is great probability it was a part of their firſt labours in this country.

Nabs-end, which is near the ſouth extremity of the place, is repreſented to be the ſpot where the deciſive battle was fought between William Strongbow and Edmond Ironſide: this is partly evidenced by quantities of human bones, and war weapons being ſometimes diſcovered at the place.

I found Newnham church-yard the beſt ſituation on this journey for a contemplation on the glorious ſubjects that form the ſurrounding ſcenery, and I was moved by it to uncommon admiration. Each ſprig of the vaſt orchards which decorated the encircling beds of verdure, ſeemed a poſey of roſeate ſhotten blows—the ſun with diſtant courteſy had glanced a brief farewell to the hills that ſkreened the eaſt, and ſought the temporary ſhelter of the weſtern foreſt—the garrulous wind no longer whiſpered—motion ſtood ſtill—echo loſt her voice—" all Nature paused," or ſet ſuch reſting ſpace to time as often ſeems to ſeparate the day from night: Anon, as if by ſkilful magic touched, the ſleepy charm

was broke; a long round wave came whiſpering into ſight, enriching the ſtream that ſeemed pleaſed to receive its ruffling opponent:---My thoughts were loſt in a pleaſing labyrinth, for I could not reconcile this placid phenomenon with the recollected turbulence of the Hygra's head; but the perplexity was ſoon explained away by one that aſſured me the Hygra's head [See Vol. I. p. 12.] was a term beſt ſuited to the high tides of the Severn; for that at nape tides, when the weather was ſerene like the preſent, its appearance had always this pleaſing effect.

There is a road leads from this town to Little Dean, which is an inconſiderable village upon the edge of the Foreſt. Mr. Perk and Mr. Robinſon have genteel reſidences here; but the moſt engaging ſubject of its kind in this neighbourhood, is Hay-Hill, the reſidence of J. Jones, Eſq. it is ſeen a ſhort way from the town in the way to Blakeney, on a commanding eminence over the road: on the other hand, next the river Severn, are Gadcomb and Perton, two ſmall villages; at the latter of which there is eſtabliſhed a ferry over that river, which is much uſed by the inhabitants of ſome parts of the Foreſt, and Monmouthſhire, in their journies to Briſtol. At Gadcomb is the common place of anchorage of the Severn Trows that are often detained here for the different tides that ſuit their paſſage. The Star Stones, called by the Mineraliſts *Aſteria*, are

are found in this neighbourhood in great abundance.

BLAKEWAY.

This place is deſcribed to have once ſupported a conſiderable market, but there is not now the leaſt ſhew of ſuch privilege. It is a ſmall village; the houſes too are moſtly of mean conſtruction, and ſeem ſtudiouſly crowded into obſcurity, for the place is deeply environed with hills, among which, a conſiderable ſtream, after various embarraſſments, makes its way from the foreſt lands above to the river beneath.

About a mile beyond, there is a turnpike road croſſes the one I am deſcribing, which leads from the town of Monmouth to Perton Ferry; and a ſhort way from their junction may be found a very ſtriking view down the river Severn, at which the rocks of Beachly, Auſt, &c. enter upon the ſight in the beſt order of proſpective beauty.

LIDNEY.

The progreſſive improvements of agriculture evidenced through this neighbourhood, and the introduction of ſundry Iron Works, have latterly multiplied the inhabitants; and there is a better ſhew of buſineſs in the village than is common

through its neighbouring diſtricts; a neat church too is attached to it, provided with a good ring of bells, and an organ.

There is a large plain of fertile land next the Sea, called the New Ground, ſuppoſed to be obtained when the water deſerted its ancient track for a more eaſtern courſe; for the inhabitants have a tradition amongſt them, that the tides of the Severn once reached a bank of earth called the Turret, which is near the church, and that a large ſhip was built near the place, now called the Turret Well.

This place is otherwiſe diſtinguiſhed for its ſituation with the ancient Abone of Antoninus, which has been deſcribed to have occupied Dwarf Hill, within Lidney Park; and his Trajectus is, on equal credit, repreſented to have been near Oldbury. Beſides the extenſive remains of entrenchments exhibited within Lidney Park, there are the ruins of a Roman Hypocauſt or Bath; ſome other ſpecimens of their ancient architecture, and numberleſs ſmaller productions from their arts and manufactories, are likewiſe often found there.

Camden ſays, "In this neighbourhood were antiently two towns called Tedenham and Wolaſton, which Walter and Roger, the brothers of Gilbert de Clare, took from the Welſh."

LIDNEY

LIDNEY PARK HOUSE.

Theſe domains appear to have been granted out of the Foreſt of Dean to Sir William Winter, Vice Admiral of England, for his ſervices in defending this country againſt the Spaniſh Armada; and he is deſcribed to have began a ſtately houſe here in 1588, which his poſterity long enjoyed. Among the latter was Sir John Winter's, whoſe loyalty and ſervices to the unfortunate Charles, are thus noticed by Hiſtorians. "He fortified a neck of land at Auſt Paſſage, to maintain a correſpondence betwixt the King's forces in the weſt, and theſe in Wales; but Colonel Maſſie twice ſurpriſed the works and took moſt of the garriſon priſoners: after one of theſe conflicts Sir John was forced to leap his horſe down a prodigious precipice into the Wye, to preſerve himſelf from his purſuers: notwithſtanding his repeated defeats, he ſtill continued his diligence in the King's ſervices; he gathered other forces, fortified his houſe at Lidney, and put the town of Newnham in a ſtate of defence; but the prevailing fate of the other party ſtill appeared to fruſtrate all his valiant and laudable deſigns." This ancient family is nearly extinct; and the ſpacious poſſeſſions of Lidney Park, its elegant manſion, and much territory in the neighbourhood, have been ſince enjoyed by ſome of the family of the Bathurſts.

The

The road from hence to Chepſtow, paſſes a country to a great degree fertile, but the numberleſs ſtreams that are continually croſſing it from the high lands to the level below, render the ways in general uneven; it is therefore a tedious carriage road. On the right, within a few miles of Chepſtow, F. Williams, Eſq. has a neat houſe, overlooking a great boundary of arable and orchard land. Near where the road falls abruptly down upon the river Wye, in your way into Chepſtow, you croſs another road from Monmouthſhire, &c. to the Old Paſſage over the Severn. [See Vol. I.]

Through NEWENT *to* ROSS.

This road often paſſes with the line of a new inland canal navigation from Gloceſter to Ledbury, &c. &c. Newent is ſuppoſed to derive its name and foundation from a *New-Inn* that ſtood about the ſpot which the town now occupies, and which was raiſed ſome centuries ſince for the convenience of the Welch Travellers that uſed this road in their way through the country to England; it has now ſeveral ſmall ſtreets, and contains many faſhionable houſes that are well inhabited: the pariſh church is a neat building near the centre of the whole; it has a handſome ſpire, with ſpacious eccleſiaſtical ornaments, which is common to the churches throughout this neighbourhood, and they are otherwiſe remarkable for containing a great

great profuſion of neat tombs, head-ſtones, and other ruſtic memorials, " where the rude fore-fathers of the hamlet ſleep." It is ſurely juſt to remark on ſo univerſal an attachment to the mournful ditties of nature and religion.

The town appears to have been formerly of far more conſideration than at preſent, having, according to Mr. Rudder, contained nine ſtreets, likewiſe a priory, with conſiderable revenues, which he deſcribes to have ſtood on the ſpot of ground the Court Houſe now occupies; the latter is adjoining to the church-yard. The Hays, and the Moat, the poſſeſſions of Meſſrs. Pritchard and Chin, are ancient habitations in this neighbourhood.

At Yartleton Hill, near this town, is Crocket's Hole, ſo called becauſe one Horne and Crocket are reported to have long concealed themſelves therein, from the ſanguinary perſecution of Queen Mary's miniſters: Ruder thus relates the fact:

" Horne was a papiſt, and a man of parts; and meeting with ſeveral proteſtants who had aſſembled near the ſide of Yartleton Wood to diſcourſe on religious ſubjects, at length became a proſelyte, and refuſed to go to maſs, for which he was taken before the biſhop in his Conſiſtory Court at Gloceſter, and committed to ſome priſon within

in the verge of the college; but eſcaping from it in the night, he returned home, and lay concealed in various manners. At laſt his wife, being with child, was delivered, and an entertainment made at the baptizing of the child; when the mother deſired a cutting of ſome meat, which having received, ſhe laid it by. This being obſerved by the midwife, created a ſuſpicion; whereupon ſhe procured an order to ſearch for poor Horne, whom they found concealed under a veſſel with the head out. He was immediately carried to his trial, condemned, and led to the place of execution, where he ſuffered with great chriſtian fortitude."

"About the year 1665 one Fairfax, a diſbanded ſoldier, adviſed by Lilly the Aſtrologer, came down from London, and opened this hole in hopes of diſcovering great riches therein, which drew many people thither; ſome of them went into the hole and told incredible things concerning it. At laſt, one Witcombe going in drunk, and dying there, put an end to their further examinations."

Much of the country hereabouts is particularly prolific in grain and graſs; the lands are generally divided into diminutive portions, much crowded with hedge rows, and the latter are often full of unproductive trees; the growth of elm particularly prevails amongſt them, and it ſometimes

times branches to a prodigious ſize. A journey in the ſummer is hereby rendered moſt agreeable; for the roads, which are commonly narrow, are ſometimes completely embowered in ſhade; and the fierceneſs of ſolſtitial heat is mitigated with umbrageous glooms.

A few miles nearer Roſs the road aſcends a leſs ſheltered track of high lands, and thence paſſing the ſmall village of Linton, it falls again upon a country of the ſame character as about Newent, which continues all the way to Roſs. Near the centre of theſe vales are ſome remains of a fortified building, called Eccleſhall; and in the ſame fertile neighbourhood Mr. Mathews has a neat houſe.

BOLLITREE

Is two miles further on this road; it is the property of Mr. Richardſon. According to Mr. Shaw, it was the birth-place and reſidence of William Merrick, Eſq. author of THE CAMELEON, THE MONKEYS, and other poems. The following elegant ſpecimen of his talents is ſelected from his deſcription of Bollitree:

"Near where proud Penyard's woods ariſe,
Whence Cambria's hills ſalute our eyes;
On a fair ſpot enclos'd with wood,
That long the rage of time had ſtood,
Stands Bollitree—In days of yore,

Ere Lancaſter the ſceptre bore,
Well known to fame.———
Old Gaunt, 'tis ſaid, had ſeen the place;
And Hereford's renowned grace
There deign'd to ſpend a ſocial hour,
Whilſt virtue charm'd him more than pow'r—
When hapleſs Richard's wretched reign,
Caus'd Britons ſons to ſeek the plain:—
Its Maſter,* lov'd of Hereford,
Joined with him, and drew the ſword;
And whilſt our Henrys bore the ſway,
At Bollitree—how bleſs't the day!
A branch † from this old ſpot deriv'd—
In Spain right hardy deeds atchiev'd.
In evil hour, a daring ſwain,§
In beauty's bloom, he preſs'd the plain:—
Ah! hapleſs youth, of ſoul ſincere,
Receive the heart-beſtowing tear:
Since fate thy vital thread has ſhorn,
Eternal laurels grace thy urn!
Sacred to you, deſerving dead,
This awful fabric rears its head:
Accept the humble tribute paid,
And peaceful ſleep each hallow'd ſhade."

From the eminence on which this caſtle ſtands the neat village of Weſton has a good appearance; and all the way hence into the town of Roſs, the fertility of the country has harmony with its other beauties.

* Thomas Meyricke.
† Sir Gwillim Merrick, Knighted at Calais for his valour.
§ Lieut. S. Hopkins, ſlain at the ſiege of fort St. George, Nephew to the Author.

ROSS to MONMOUTH

is the continuation of the great poſt-road. At leaving Roſs there is a ſhort and ſteep deſcent towards the borders of the River Wye, diſagreeable to carriage paſſengers; and theſe ſorts of inconveniences will be found more general in the two ſucceeding ſtages toward Carmarthen than any where elſe on the journey.

Thoſe level expanſions that are elſewhere familiar to the Wye, and divert the floods of winter from uniting to an intolerable height, are ſeen no more; conſequently the intervening hills which henceforward bound its banks, ſometimes compreſs its ſtreams to a narrower compaſs and more awful depth. This gave riſe to Mr. Kerles's (alias the man of Roſs) celebrated cauſeway; for it is affirmed "To be built under his immediate direction and by contributions by him procured:"

"Whoſe cauſeway parts the vale with ſhady rows,
"Whoſe ſeats the weary traveller repoſe." POPE.

It is of ſufficient breadth for the paſſage of all carriages, which it bears ſometimes ſix, ſometimes eight, and often ten feet above the common level of the land beneath. It is in length 925 yards. Wilton bridge which adjoins it was built in the year 1597; it conſiſts of ſix large arches; and has equal beauty to any of equal antiquity.

WILTON

WILTON CASTLE

is nearly adjoining—firſt erected by Hugh Longchamp. It is again recorded that King John gave Wilton with the caſtle to Henry Longchamp, who was Sheriff of this county in the ſecond year of King Richard I. It was afterwards in the hands of Fitz Hugh; and Reginald Grey was lord of it in King Edward the Firſt's time. The laſt family who poſſeſſed it was that of Bridges, who ſold it with Aconbury, Dewſal, and other of their property in this county, to the truſtees of Guy's Hoſpital, in London, with whom it now remains. The original grand entrance was toward the River Wye—part of the gateway remains; which, with ſome of its principal towers, appears of earlier age than other parts in the outer works, the chapel, &c. &c. On the landſide, the whole hath been completely circled with a deep mote. Some parts of the premiſes are now occupied as a private dwelling-houſe; others, as gardens, orchards, &c. The village of Wilton is much uſed as a port of the River Wye, from whence much of its traffic is paſſed to the internal parts of Herefordſhire.

RIVER WYE.

In deſcribing the beauty and ſplendor of the various landſcapes that all the way embelliſh this river from hence to the parts of Monmouthſhire,

ſhire, which I have heretofore dwelt upon, I ſhould be found only retracing the features and enlarging the characters of my former eſſays; while my beſt attempts would fall infinitely ſhort of Mr. Gilpin's glowing deſcription of its romantic ſcenes, from which I have extracted the following: "The beauties ariſe chiefly from two circumſtances—the *lofty banks* of the river, and its *many courſes*; the views it exhibits are of the moſt beautiful kind of perſpective, free from the formality of lines.

"Every view on a river thus circumſtanced, is compoſed of four grand parts: the *area*, which is the river itſelf; the *two ſide ſcreens*, which are the oppoſite banks; and the *front ſcreen*, which points out the winding of the river.

"The views on the Wye, though compoſed only of theſe ſimple parts, are yet infinitely varied. They are varied firſt, by the contraſt of the ſcreens—ſometimes one of the ſide ſcreens is elevated, ſometimes the other, and ſometimes the front, or both the ſide ſcreens may be lofty, and the front either high or low.

"Again they are varied by the folding of the ſide ſcreens over each other, and hiding more or leſs of the front: when none of the front is diſcovered, the folding ſide either winds round like an amphitheatre, or it becomes a long reach of perſpective.

" The ornaments of the Wye may be ranged under four heads—*ground*, *wood*, *rocks*, and *buildings*.

" The *ground*, of which the banks of the Wye conſiſt, affords every variety which ground is capable of receiving, from the ſteepeſt precipice to the flatteſt meadow: this variety appears in the line formed by the ſummits of the banks in the ſwellings and excavations of their declivities, and in the unequal ſurfaces of their lower grounds.

" In many places alſo the ground is broken, which adds new ſources of variety; by broken ground, we mean only ſuch ground as hath loſt its turf, and diſcovers the naked ſoil: often you ſee a gravelly earth ſhivering from the hills in the form of water-falls; or perhaps you ſee dry ſtony channels guttering down precipices, the rough beds of temporary torrents; and ſometimes ſo trifling a cauſe as the rubbing of ſheep againſt the ſide of little banks or hillocks, will often cauſe very beautiful breaks.

" The colour too of the broken ſoil is a great ſource of variety—the yellow or the red oker; the aſhy grey; the black earth; or the marly blue; and the intermixtures of theſe with each other, and with patches of verdure, blooming heath, and other vegetable tints, ſtill increaſe that variety.

" The

"The next great ornament on the banks of the Wye, is its *woods*. In this country there are many works carried on by fire, and the woods being maintained for their uſe, are periodically cut down; as the larger trees are generally left, a kind of alternacy takes place; what is this year a thicket, may the next be an open grove. The woods themſelves poſſeſs little beauty, and leſs grandeur; yet, when we conſider them as the ornamental, not as the *eſſential* parts of a ſcene, the eye muſt not examine them with that exactneſs, but compound for *a general effect*.

"One circumſtance attending this alternacy, is pleaſing—many of the furnaces on the banks of the river conſume charcoal which is manufactured on the ſpot; and the ſmoke, which is frequently ſeen iſſuing from the ſides of the hills and ſpreading its thin veil over a part of them, beautifully breaks their lines and unites them with the ſky.

"The chief deficiency, in point of wood, is of large trees on the edge of the water, which, clumped here and there, would diverſify the hills as the eye paſſes them, and remove that heavineſs which always in ſome degree (though here as little as any where) ariſes from the continuity of the ground; they would alſo give a degree of diſtance to the more removed parts,

which, in a ſcene like this, would be attended with peculiar advantage; for, as we have here ſo little diſtance, we wiſh to make the moſt of that we have.

"The *rocks*, which are continually ſtarting through the woods, produce another ornament on the banks of the Wye:—different kinds of rocks have different degrees of beauty! thoſe on the Wye, which are of a greyiſh colour, are in general ſimple and grand, rarely formal or fantaſtic; ſometimes they project in beautiful ſquare maſſes, yet broken and ſhattered in every line which is characteriſtic of the moſt majeſtic ſpecies of rock. Sometimes they ſlant obliquely from the eye in ſhelving diagonal ſtrata; and ſometimes they appear in large maſſes of ſmooth ſtone, detached from each other, and half buried in the ſoil:—rocks of the laſt kind are the moſt lumpiſh, and the leaſt pictureſque.

"The various buildings which ariſe every where on the banks of the Wye, form the beſt of its ornaments; abbeys, caſtles, villages, ſpires, forges, mills, and bridges; one or other of theſe venerable veſtiges of paſt, or chearful habitations of preſent times, characteriſe almoſt every ſcene."

The way to Monmouth continues from Wilton through the two villages of Goodridge and Whitchurch.

Whitchurch. At Goodridge Church a road leads to Flansford Abbey; this is ſometimes called Goodridge Priory: it appears to have received its firſt name from there having been a village called Flansford near to it, the ſituation of which may be judged by a ford over the river Wye, which is now called Flansford. It has been called Goodridge Priory, becauſe we find that Richard Talbot, ſometime lord of Caſtle Goodridge, in the year 1346, did there endow a priory of black canons, which was dedicated to St. John Baptiſt; it was valued, at the diſſolution, at 14l. 8s. 9d. Small remains are now left of this edifice, but there are upon the premiſes many evident marks of its original magnificence.

The proſpects of the neighbouring caſtle of Goodridge are beſt attained by making the paſſage from Monmouth by a ſhorter way than by Wilton. This laſt paſſes by the ſouth ſide of Roſs church, and then near the Court-Houſe to Goodridge ferry. Nearly the ſame direction likewiſe conducts us to a road which goes to the other two villages in theſe diſtricts, called Lidbrook and Ruredean, likewiſe to various parts of the foreſt of Dean. At Lidbrook is the wharf moſt in uſe for exporting coals, &c. from the interior parts of Dean foreſt to other navigable parts of the river Wye. Ruredean is on another border of the river; it has a neat ſpired church,

church, and it is in a degree well peopled with miners, &c. belonging to the different works of the foreſt.

THE COURT-HOUSE

appears to have borrowed its name from a neglected manſion ſome time poſſeſſed by the Kerls, once a numerous, ancient, and honourable family, but now retaining nothing of celebrity but the name. The above new Court-Houſe is formed from the largeſt and moſt elegant plan of any building in this neighbourhood. Its central parts were built by Richard Clerk, Eſq. in 1700. The wings of the building were ſince added by his ſucceſſors, in conformity to the purpoſe of the original projector. The out-buildings, gardens, and plantations being completed under the direction of the firſt, are examples of ſuperior taſte: it is proper to remark on his novel device for raiſing an elliptical arch of a ſtupendous ſpan, as a frontiſpiece to one view of his houſe; the abutments are ſtill ſtanding about 100 yards diſtance from it; from baſe to baſe of them it is about 100 feet; but it appears that this deſign was not fully executed, or it was too ſlightly formed for duration.

The declining days of the preſent worthy poſſeſſor of theſe premiſes are heavily lamented, for ſhe is the laſt deſcendant of a family whoſe exalted goodneſs and hoſpitality have proved a bleſſing

bleſſing to the neighbourhood through all the laſt age,—as if the benevolent ſpirit of the long loſt Kerl had never deſerted its terreſtrial reſidence.

GOODRIDGE CASTLE

has a bold front next the Wye, and a noble back ground in the hill, called Copper-Wood. William Marſhal had a right in it in the reign of King John. In Edward the Third's time it was the chief ſeat of Gilbert, Lord Talbot, great grandfather to the firſt Earl of Shrewſbury, whoſe poſterity appear to have poſſeſſed it till a granddaughter of the ſeventh Earl carried it to her huſband, Henry Gray, Earl of Kent; it continued in the latter family to the laſt Duke of Kent; and it is now the property of Mrs. Oſborne.

Paſſing from Goodridge to Whitchurch, wherever the ſight is pointed, various ſmall mountains may be diſtinguiſhed as preſſing upon the proſpect; there is much beauty in their forms and covering, they are ſometimes obſerved to puſh the ſtreams of the Wye into irregular circumvolutions about their baſes. The firſt on the left is remarkable for a ſmoother front than either of its neighbours, and is called Coppee Wood; from the ſummit of this is the beſt proſpect into the innumerable valleys that are every way intervening. The ſecond is Huntſham's Hill; this

this has an aſpect of more vulgarity, for the upper parts of it are ſpotted o'er with large fractured rocks that by ſome unaccountable violence might have burſt from the regular ſtratas that are elſewhere concealed within their "ſheets of ſweet green turf." The next on this direction is called Cymon's-Gate, (or Simon's-Gate); this has a character of ſavage wildneſs, and it is otherwiſe particularly marked by its pointed iſthmus, the two oppoſite baſes of which are waſhed by two different ſtreams of the river Wye; and though they have here ſo ſhort a diviſion, the water on the eaſt of it muſt travel ſome miles before it reaches the ſtream that laves the weſtern ſide.

WHITCHURCH

is a neat little village, and compriſes ſome reſidences of faſhionable inhabitants. Every proſpect of the country about it is pleaſing; ſome of them are rich, and the village connects itſelf to a larger plain of more uſeful land than generally borders theſe parts of the river.

Courtfield, which is a ſhort way to the left of this place, appears, from plain evidence, to have been a place of ancient honours. It was long poſſeſſed by the Crown, and was often a royal reſidence; it was the nurſery of King Henry V. by whom it was afterwards preſented to the family of the Vaughans, with whom it now remains;

mains;—and on this eſtate is the ancient Saxon ſepulchral record, ſo often noticed in hiſtory. Other provincial records repreſent the noble family of Talbots as the moſt ancient and univerſal lords of theſe adjoining manors; ſince which the Gwillims have had diſtinguiſhed properties. The moſt mountainous object that appears in ſight from the village is called Little Doward; upon the higheſt part of this has been a very extenſive encampment; the labour of it has been generally attributed to the Saxons: it was completely protected on the weſternmoſt ſide by means of deep entrenchments and covered ways, and at other parts it had the cliffs of Wye for a barrier. King Arthur's Hall is a remarkable cave (or caves); in it is a vaſt chaſm, within the ſtratas of hard rock, from whence it is ſuppoſed the iron ore hath, in early ages been extracted: the vaſt quantities of cinders and other abundant refuſe of theſe works, which are every day produced to view, are the beſt proofs of the latter circumſtance. According to ancient writers, "war arrows have been found here, and part of the bones of a gigantic perſon were found in a place arched over—they were given to a ſurgeon of Briſtol."

Right of Whitchurch a road leads through a more even and fertile country to Langarren and Hereford; and on the left, to New Wearford, and the Foreſt of Dean. New Wear is

thus deſcribed by Mr. Gilpin: "The river is wider than uſual in this part, and takes a ſweep round a towering promontory of rock, which forms the ſide-ſcreen on the left, and is the grand feature of the view; it is not a broad, a fractured face of rock, but rather a woody hill, from which large projections in two or three places burſt out, rudely hung with twiſting branches and ſhaggy furniture, which, like the mane round a lion's head, give a more ſavage air to thoſe wild exhibitions of nature: near the top, a pointed fragment of ſolitary rock, riſing above the reſt, has rather a fantaſtic appearance, but it is not without its effect in marking the ſcene.

"On the right ſide of the river, the bank forms a woody amphitheatre, following the courſe of the ſtream round the promontory; its lower ſkirts are adorned with a hamlet, in the midſt of which, volumes of thick ſmoke, thrown up at intervals from an iron-forge, as its fires receive freſh fuel, add double grandeur to the ſcene. But what peculiarly marks this view, is a circumſtance on the water: the whole river at this place, makes a precipitate fall, of no great height indeed, but enough to merit the title of a caſcade; though to the eye, above the ſtream, it is an object of no conſequence.

"In

"In all the ſcenes we had yet paſſed, the water moving with a ſlow and ſolemn pace, the objects around kept time as it were with it; and every ſteep and every rock which hung over the river, was ſolemn, tranquil, and majeſtic:—but here the violence of the ſtream, and the roaring of the waters, impreſſed a new character on the ſcene; all was agitation and uproar, and every ſteep and every rock, ſtared with wildneſs and terror."

In addition to the various proſpects of the river Wye, which are exhibited through this ſtage, thoſe of Gacrewe are worthy of ſome obſervation; they have beauteous variety, and run to conſiderable length with the courſe of the river.

Hadnock is a noble old manſion in this way, poſſeſſed by the Rev. Mr. Griffiths; and near Monmouth it paſſes Newton Court, which is the property of S. Griffin, Eſq.

FOREST ROAD to MONMOUTH.

The road from Gloceſter to Monmouth, that was formerly in the greateſt uſe, paſſed through a more ſouthern direction than the preſent poſt road; it divided from the latter at Hantly, and led from thence through Long Hope, Mitchel Dean, and Colefort. Long Hope, in all probability,

bability, was ſo called from its ſituation; it is made up of a ſtraggling multitude of ſmall farm-houſes and cottages that occupy one of the narrow vales which this road for ſome way interſects. Moſt of the proſpects through all this neighbourhood, and to Dean Foreſt, taken in a general view, have much affinity to thoſe on the firſt part of the way from Hantly Gate to Roſs. The gently ſloping hills and contracted valleys poſſeſs, as is uſual in ſimilar ſituations, the ſimple coſtage farms; and where the valleys expand to more than ordinary ſpaces, are the dwellings of more reſpectability, and territories of wider extent: ſome of this neighbourhood are attained by the following cuſtomary privilege, viz. who could compleat a cottage upon certain waſte lands, and boil a pot for twelve hours without moleſtation, ſecured the inheritance thereof to himſelf; after which, by encloſing ſmall portions, time after time, and making occaſional additions to the buildings, they have ſometimes become conſiderable poſſeſſions.

MITCHEL DEAN

was anciently a market-town of great trade: it is generally ſuppoſed that the woollen manufactories that are now ſo much practiſed through the eaſtern parts of this country and in Wiltſhire, had their beginning at this place. It had other advantages in being near to the beſt beds of mineral that have been found within the neighbouring

ing foreſt: theſe beds are ſuppoſed to have been much uſed by the Romans and Saxons; and the vaſt ſubterraneous cavities which have often been diſcovered in thoſe ſtratas by modern labourers, ſtrongly ſubſtantiate this opinion. Mitchel Dean ſtill boaſts a neat church with an handſome ſpire, a good ring of bells, and ſet of chimes. There are alſo many ruins of extenſive old dwellings: two or three centuries ago, it appears, ſuch as are called half-timber-houſes, were the general faſhion of this country. I have ſeen many of them bearing a remote date; and they often contain beams of oak timber of ſuch vaſt dimenſions as can rarely be formed in the preſent produce of it in theſe parts.

The ancient family of Colcheſter have a good manſion upon the neareſt border of the Foreſt: it was built about the year 1661, by Sir Duncomb Colcheſter, Knight. It is ſituated on an eminence which commands a remarkable proſpect into the neighbouring counties of England and Wales.

Though there is no remarkable fence to Dean Foreſt, one of obſervation cannot paſs the boundaries without noticing its extent; for the low parts of it have been ſo wantonly ravaged of their natural covering, and the

uſual champaign parts have had their ſurfaces ſo mangled by the miners and quarry-men, that the whole has a worſe appearance than even common waſtes. Its beſt marks for attention, are a few deſolated oaks—ſad memorials to where their "broad and bushy tops" might once have extended.

Within three miles of Coleford, the road paſſes an high part of the Foreſt, from which there is a vaſt proſpect toward the weſt and north: the parts neareſt the ſight are ſome of the richeſt vales in Herefordſhire, much of Monmouthſhire and Glocesterſhire; over theſe appear large links of mountains that fill many parts of Breconſhire, Radnorſhire and Shropſhire. Theſe views produce a pleaſing effect upon the mind when contraſted with thoſe juſt mentioned.

COLEFORD.

The buildings of this town will be found more uniform than thoſe of Mitchel Dean. It has a neat little market-houſe, and a decent inn. The only curioſity to be met with here is the line of Offa's dyke, which paſſes this town from the Foreſt of Dean. There is one road leads from hence to the Old Paſſage; and one takes a direction from hence to St. Brevel's Caſtle, Bigſware and Chepſtow.

Bigſware

Bigſwate is the ſeat of General Rooke, repreſentative in parliament for the county of Monmouth. It is charmingly ſeated on the banks of the river Wye; and every part of the domain ſomeway participates in the ſplendid ſcenery of that river.

S. BREVIL's (or, S. Briavel's) CASTLE

was built by Miles, or Mahel, Earl of Hereford, and was anciently of great ſtrength and beauty. It is now uſed as a priſon for all offenders againſt the laws of the Foreſt. Some writers relate that a daughter of the Earl abovementioned, married Herbert, who in right of his wife was lord of Dean, and progenitor to the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery. The ancient family of Clifford, who it will appear anciently poſſeſſed the moſt extenſive territories in theſe parts, were at one time its holders; for Mahel, the youngeſt ſon of Miles Earl of Hereford, being entertained therein by Sir Walter Clifford, and the caſtle taking fire, he was killed by a ſtone which fell from the higheſt tower. This family of Clifford, according to Sir *Robert Atkins*, was deſcended from a younger brother of the celebrated Droys, or Dru; and from it deſcended Roſamond, the unfortunate concubine of Henry II.

Leaving Coleford, the traveller may vary from the common way to Monmouth by leaving the

poſt road to the left and turning upon another on the right; this latter way paſſes moſtly upon high lands, from whence he comprehends the ſummits and counts the features of numberleſs variegated hills which aſſiſt to fill a vaſt expanſe of country around him. On the common way through Redbrooke, the road ſtill continues winding with the vallies, except where it riſes to High Meadow.

HIGH MEADOW

was formerly the property of a family of conſiderable reſpect in theſe parts, (the Hall's); ſince which it has fallen to Lord Viſcount Gage, who has generally a ſhort annual reſidence upon it. The houſe is large and roomy, from which and the territory attached to it, there is a good proſpect over the neighbouring vales; but the building, generally ſpeaking, wants elegance, and the lands want cultivation, to render the whole an intereſting ſubject to the traveller of taſte.

At the junction of ſome ſmall ſhady vallies, ſuch as mark much the character of this country, and a ſhort way out of the road, is the neat little village of

NEWLAND.

E. Probyn, Eſq. has a good houſe here; and there are ſeveral others faſhionably tenanted. The architecture of its church is much admired; and

and it is ornamented with many handſome monumental records in memory of the ancient reſidents at High Meadow, of thoſe of Clowerwall, and to ſome of the family of the Probyns.—But the often recorded account of the tomb of Jenkin Wyrrall, upon examination, proves partly fictitious: all I find is an ancient figure of a foreſt-keeper, with his falchion, horn, and dog, with the common impromptu of name and date.

By the way of Bream and Clowerwall, is a way from hence to Chepſtow. Clowerwall, or Clearwell, is an ancient and excellent manſion in poſſeſſion of —— Edwin; Eſq. from whom Mr. Wyndham, the preſent Member for the county of Glamorgan, is deſcended.

At Redbrooke, (the diviſion of Gloceſterſhire and Monmouthſhire) the road falls upon the borders of the river Wye, and travels near to its banks all the way thence to Monmouth. At the village of Redbrooke, are very conſiderable iron-works, belonging to D. Tanner, Eſq. And at entering Monmouth there is a proſpect of

TROY-HOUSE.

It is a ſmall manſion for ſo dignified a maſter, for it is the property of his grace the Duke of Beaufort, who has ſometimes made it his temporary reſidence; yet if the gardens and adjacent premiſes

premiſes were to be properly repaired according to the modern rules of improvement, it would be a proper mark to the valued territory of his grace, every way attached to it.

MONMOUTH

is the aſſize town for the county, and the one from which this county now takes its name.* It was called by the Britons Mynwy; probably becauſe Mynow, after courſing much of the borders of the town, here empties itſelf into the Wye. The *tout enſemble* of the place is convenient and very agreeable; it is built upon an eminent riſe from the vale which draws the rivers Mynow and Wye to a junction; the ſtreets having from this circumſtance commonly a deſcent, they are clean and airy; and from the higheſt parts of it there are every way proſpects of beautiful hills, which ultimately encircle the whole. There is a ſpacious market-place, to which an handſome town-hall connects itſelf: againſt the front of the latter appears a good figure in ſtone of their royal townſman, Henry V.

According to *Camden*, the caſtle and fortifications of this place flouriſhed moſt in the days of William the Conqueror; and after ſome decay,

* I have before obſerved, that this country was more anciently called Wentland.

were

were rebuilt by John Baron of Monmouth; from him they devolved to the houſe of Lancaſter, when Henry III. deprived him of his inheritance for eſpouſing the Baron's cauſe ſo violently.

Mr. Shaw ſays, Boderon had the cuſtody of the caſtle with four carucates of land, which were the king's demeſne; and Withenock his ſon, ſurnamed De Monmouth, built a church within the caſtle and gave it to the monks of St. Florence at Salmure, in France. The aforeſaid Boderon, he alſo ſays, in the reign of Henry II. granted to the monks of Monmouth, in exchange for Hadonock, three forges ſituate upon the river Wye, free from all tolls, foreſtage, and paſſage, or any other cuſtom, for the iron made therein. His grandſon, John Baron of Monmouth, who had the cuſtody of the caſtle of Strigul, the 15th of Henry III. gave about that time to the aforeſaid monks of St. Florence, in pure alms, the hoſpital of St. John at Monmouth: this nobleman having no iſſue male, in conſideration of certain lands which Prince Edward granted him for his life, gave to the ſaid Prince and his heirs for ever, his caſtle and manor of Monmouth.

The manor, much of the place, and a great ſhare of the adjoining country, is poſſeſſed by his grace the Duke of Beaufort. By a grant of King

William III. it alſo gives title to the Mordaunt family, who are Earls of Peterborough and Monmouth. The church is near the centre of the town, and is of good workmanſhip, particularly the ſpire, which laſt is conſidered by connoiſſeurs as a neat piece of ſpiral architecture. A large county gaol has been lately erected in the ſuburbs of the town, imitative of a caſtle, ſo that a ſtranger, at firſt ſight, would rather ſuppoſe it a good preſervation of the ancient fortification thereof, than the dreadful abode of his criminal fellow creatures—an harmleſs deceit, which ſometimes ſaves the feelings of humane obſervers. Many inhabitants of diſtinction and fortune are reſidents of Monmouth. There are cheap and plentiful markets, and ſeveral good inns; and being a principal thoroughfare between England and Wales, is ſome profit to it: beſides which, there is conſiderable traffic from the country around to commodious wharfs that are here upon the river Wye. The whole is under the uſual government of two bailiffs, fifteen common councilmen, and a town clerk.

The Wye bridge which is paſſed on entering this town from Gloceſter, &c. and the one which leads over the river Mynow into the paſſage for Abergavenny, are old and firm ſtructures of of ſtone: ſome remains of the ancient fortifications which defended the latter paſſage, are yet extant.

extant. A large maſs of ſtone building, the laſt of the caſtle, fell about twenty-ſix years ago into the channel that leads the Mynow to the river Wye, and is ſince all of it waſted away: its ſituation was where a modern building, named after it, now appears, (Miſs Tuder's School-Houſe.) Beſides the royal perſonage aforementioned, this place (ſays *Camden)* glories in the birth-place of Galfridus Arthurius, Biſhop of St. Aſaph, who compiled the Britiſh Hiſtory.

From Mynow bridge, a road on the left hand paſſes Troy-Houſe, thence by Mrs. Evans's, and through part of Chepſtow park to the town of Chepſtow; another on the right leads to

ABERGAVENNY,

and afterwards divides into three other ways thither: the firſt turns to the right of the reſt by Llandilo Cryſſenny; this is moſtly uſed in ſummer by horſemen or foot-paſſengers, for it is ſhorter than the other roads, but very uneven, and in winter much the worſt to travel upon. At Llandilo aforeſaid is a very handſome ſeat of Richard Lewis, Eſq. who poſſeſſes good property about it: on this road there is likewiſe a good proſpect of White Caſtle; and the traveller attains a fine ſurvey of the ſublime Yſgyſyd Fawr mountain. Another road leads more weſtward through Tregare, and paſſes Court-

Robert, a former ſeat of the ancient family of the Gunters, of whom was Sir Peter Gunter, who aſſiſted Bernard de Newmarch in his expedition againſt the Welch of Brecon, when that province fell a ſacrifice to Norman rapacity; and for which ſervices he was rewarded by a grant of the manors of Gunterſton and Gilſton in that county. The principal carriage road paſſes ſtill farther weſtward by the ancient manſions of Treowen and Wonaſtow; then reſts the enquiring eye upon the great and curious ſpectacle of

RAGLAN CASTLE.

The grand entrance to which was to the eaſtward, and was defended with two large handſome towers; that to the right is partly of an octagonal form, ſhewing great ſtrength and neat workmanſhip, that on the left is deeply mantled with luxuriant ivy; and the paſſage between them was farther ſecured by double portculliſes and treble gates, equally ſtrong and well finiſhed: immediately within them is what is now called the green court, of about two hundred paces wide, around which were the moſt elegant apartments and offices for the proper inhabitants. More ſouthward is another court of nearly equal ſize to the former; this is formed of ſuch buildings as might ſuit the guards and tenantry in times of its invaſion. Between theſe courts were large halls ſufficient for public meetings

or

or entertainment of the whole family. Vaſt ſubterraneous buildings every way abound under them, and there were every way commodious turrets and battlements above them. What was probably the chapel, is a curious ruinated apartment; near to which a leſſer gateway than that deſcribed, leads out of the caſtle to a large terrace or lawn, ſometimes called the bowling-green: from this lawn was a moſt commanding proſpect over the country for a great way round; and there were paths from this to leſſer walks that many ways graced the feet of the buildings. Eaſtward of the larger entrance is the white tower, which ſerved to defend that paſſage and all the ſide of the caſtle which it graces; and toward the north was the ſquare tower and other parts of that front which are repreſented in the engraved view.

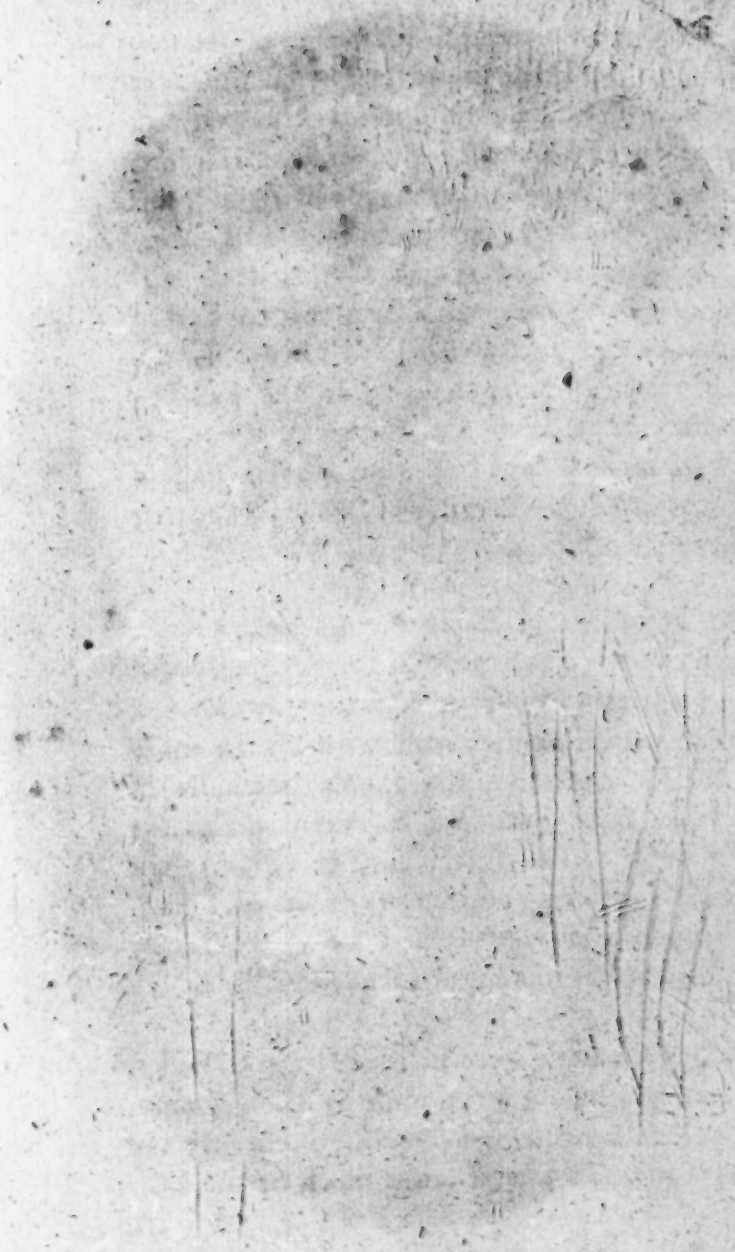
The building, now called the yellow tower, muſt have been the keep or magazine for ſtores and proviſions; it ſeems to have only connected itſelf to the general fortification by a draw-bridge, or ſome ſubterraneous way: it was of vaſt height and ſtrength, and completely guarded by moats and breaſt-works with which it was encircled.

Early ſurveys only notice this as a fair houſe of the Earl of Worceſter, which gives reaſon to ſuppoſe

ſuppoſe the preſent buildings are of late erection: indeed the general character of the ornaments are a great improvement on the uſual buildings of defence in this country. It was moſt probably built by Sir William Herbert, Knight, who enjoyed this manor in right of his grandmother Maud, daughter of Sir John Morley, Knight; and in reward for his ſteady adherence to the York party, was created Earl of Pembroke by King Edward IV. Thence, by the female line, it has deſcended to the Duke of Beaufort, who is Baron Herbert, Chepſtow, Raglan, and Gower.—Within the church of Raglan ſome of the anceſtry of this family appear to have been buried.

At the village of Raglan is a decent inn for carriages and other neceſſary accommodations. The road from Monmouth to the town of Uſk alſo paſſes it; on which road, within a few miles of Uſk, is Kavantila, the ancient reſidence of Sir John Oats, Bart. but more latterly of Sir John Price. The firſt family is extinct; but there is a flattering regiſter of its original grandeur upon a monument of ſome of the family ſtill ſeen in the church of Llandenny.

When the traveller, who is a ſtranger to Wales, arrives within ſix or ſeven miles of Abergavenny, he attains a noble ſpecimen of the beauty and grandeur which characteriſes much of the weſtern



ern parts of Monmouthſhire, and the more inland parts of South Wales. The parts of this county which he has hitherto paſſed upon, he has had a tedious ſucceſſion of ſmall hills and vallies; now the ſight ſuddenly encompaſſes a large tract of low lands which expand by large ſweeps from the river Uſk; at the ſame time, formidable ranks of huge mountains are emerging into ſight, comparatively as high above the vallies as the clouds have hitherto appeared above the adjacent hills. Theſe proſpects are likewiſe enriched with the dwellings of many of the country gentry.

The firſt handſome manſion which comes in view from hence, is Clytha; (the proprietor W. Jones, Eſq.) who has embelliſhed a knoll, which overlooks thoſe parts of the vale neareſt him, with a temple or ſummer-houſe; the deſign of it is novel, and it is a pretty object in the ſight of thoſe who travel the valley below it. Llanarth (J. Jones's, Eſq.) is ſome way further to the right of the former, and on the ſame hand, nearer Abergavenny, is Llanſaintfread (—— Green's, Eſq.): on the oppoſite ſide of the river Uſk, is Panty-y-Goitre, and Llanover; (Dr. Hooper's, and B. Waddington's, Eſq.)

COLNBROOK HOUSE.

This was anciently the reſidence of Sir Richard Herbert, Knt. a younger brother to

William, firſt Earl of Pembroke, and anceſtor to the noble family of Cherbury and Powis: It is now, with much adjoining property, poſſeſſed by T. W. Williams, Eſq.

Near Colnbrook there is a road divides from the one I am deſcribing, and leads the traveller through Llanelew and Ryhd-y-meirch to Ponty-pool, &c.

ABERGAVENNY

has its name from its ſituation near the conflux of the river Govenny and that of the Uſk. It was called the Govonnium of the ancient Romans; and it is in that diviſion of the country which was formerly diſtinguiſhed as Upper Wentland.

"The hole Lordſhip of Abregevenny makith the compace of Hye Welland."—*Leland.*

The firſt poſſeſſor of theſe territories ſince the Conqueſt, was Hameline, ſon to Dru de Baladun, brother to Lucy Counteſs of the Iſles, who, fixing his reſidence upon this ſpot, ſtrongly fortified it with walls and a ſpacious caſtle for the purpoſe of awing the diſaffected natives into obedience. To thoſe at all converſant in the Britiſh Hiſtory, ſuch policy muſt be obvious; at the ſame time they muſt lament the ſubjugation

tion of a brave and free people: for the Gwentiovers were the deſcendants of thoſe Silures who ſo long oppoſed the arms of all-conquering Rome, and were celebrated above all others for their ſkill in archery. It afterwards became ſucceſſively the property of the Braoſes, Cantelopes, Haſtings, Beauchamps, and is now the Nevils'; which laſt family is dignified with the Earldom of Abergavenny. *Camden* quotes from *Giraldus*, that this caſtle has been oftener ſtained with the infamy of treachery than any other in Wales: one notorious inſtance of it, recorded by *Dr. Powell*, in his WELCH HISTORY of CARADOC; and however artfully *Giraldus* (out of his hatred to the Engliſh) would gloſs it over, muſt ever be held in deteſtation by an indignant poſterity.

The town of Abergavenny is governed by a bailiff, recorder, and twenty-ſeven burgeſſes. It is rather more populous than elegant, but they are at preſent much employed upon its improvement. It has very plentiful markets. The reſort thither of faſhionable ſtrangers, their proſpects of increaſing trade with the ſettlers of the neighbouring hills, and probable advantages to be derived from a navigable canal, which is intended to paſs by it from Ponty-pool to Brecon, it is likely ſoon to rank with the firſt towns in the county. There are ſeveral decent inns, and many genteel and reſpectable dwellers.

The walks and rides hereabouts are extremely pleaſant and commodious; and the valley being ſo far ſheltered with high mountains, renders the air more temperate than common. People with decaying conſtitutions are recommended to this country in the ſpring to take goats whey, which, with proper regimen and proper exerciſe, redeems ſome from the moſt deſperate ſituations.

Abergavenny church was evidently once collegiate: it is ſtill commodious and in good repair. Among a variety of old monuments which embelliſhed the chancel and other parts of the building, one is inſcribed to the memory of a Lord Haſtings, one to a Lord Bruce, one to a Lady Nevil, and ſeveral others to the memory of the Herberts of Colnbrook.

The priory was Benedictine, founded by Hameline aforementioned, who dedicated it to St. Vincent; and it appears to have been the burying place of this Hameline, who died in the reign of William Rufus.

Much remains of a ſecond church which is about the centre of the town; a third alſo has been counted, the ſituation of which might have been upon the ſpot where a handſome market-place is now erecting; for many maſſive old ruins until lately ſtood upon thoſe premiſes, and a part of them were called the Old-Court Chapel.

Several

Abergavenny Castle.

Several parts of the fortified gateways, the old entrances into the town, and ſeveral remnants of the walls which incloſed it, are ſtill ſtanding. The beſt portion of the ruins of the caſtle are ſhewn in the engraved view. All of theſe fortifications appear to have been of extraordinary durability. The principal courts of this building poſſeſſed a conſiderable eminence at the ſouth end of the town, which was deeply moated next the town, and well walled on all ſides. The keep and outer garriſons were unuſually formidable, and, by means of a deſcent, ſome ways inacceſſible. Upon the mounded earth, where was the ſcite of the latter buildings, is the beſt proſpect of the neighbouring country: Several handſome diſtant dwellings are brought into this view, and the various hills and mountains which bound it, are eaſily comprehended. Thoſe dwellings moſt conſpicuous in the ſouth weſt part of the proſpect, are Upper and Lower Llanfoiſt; the firſt is a great way ſcreened by the lower ridges of Bleau-range mountain. The Derry is a handſome, verdant hill, nearer the north and higheſt the town; at the foot of which are two handſomed wellings. The extent of the proſpect, this way, ends with a vaſt group of eminent mountains; of which the hoary-headed Sugar-loaf ſhews itſelf as indiſputed ſovereign. The Skirrid-fawr, commonly called the Holy Mountain, is between the north and eaſt; it is remarkable for a vaſt chaſm

chaſm in one part of it, which cauſes a precipice of more than 150 feet: the rocks which appear in this chaſm, are of ſuch a ſhape* as ſtrongly favours the prevailing opinion that they were divided by an uncommon convulſion of nature. There was anciently a chapel upon this mountain, ſome time uſed for divine worſhip. The proſpects from the higheſt parts hereof are perhaps as various and extenſive as any in South Wales.

A good road is formed from the weſtern part of this place, and paſſing the Uſk upon a very ancient ſtone bridge of fifteen arches, travels through the village of Gavilon unto very convenient coal and lime mines, which abundantly ſerve this and the adjacent country. The road

From ABERGAVENNY to BRECON

paſſes from the north end of the laſt deſcribed place, where one enters it from Hereford, [*See Hereford, &c.*] and paſſing upon the north ſide of the river Uſk, reaches firſt the ſmall village Llangrwyne. Mr. Watkins and Capt. Craycroft have neat houſes near this; and there is alſo a very conſiderable iron forge that is ſerved with the water of the river Grwyne, that falls from hence into the river Uſk: there is alſo a paſſage from hence acroſs the latter river to a rail road which ends near it. This rail road is conſtructed with great ingenuity to convey the coal, lime,

* See Plate of Abergavenny Caſtle.

lime, &c. which are produced in the greateſt abundance from the higheſt Breconſhire mountains, to the line of the intended canal, which is upon the loweſt level of the vale. Llanelly rocks and Pwl y cw'n water-fall are found in the paſſage of this road. Theſe laſt are ſubjects well worthy the inſpection of the curious. At this place the counties of Monmouth and Brecon are united.

BRECONSHIRE

is moſtly a mountainous and uneven country; but its highlands, which are not impregnated with minerals, are always verdant and commonly fertile; and the lower parts thereof are ſometimes rich and excellently cultivated.

Bernard de Newmarch appears to have directed the wars which ſubjugated the native ſovereignty of the province; for "obſerving with what eaſe Prince Rhees's country (Morganwy) had been conquered by Robert Fitz Hammon and his twelve Norman Knights, [*ſee* Vol. I.] he engaged the ſame power to join him; and after doing homage to the King, marched with his army into this country, gave battle, and conquered Bleddyn-ab-Mainarch. Bleddyn was ſeized, and, in his town of Caervong, ſlain, and his town razed to the ground; and from the ruins thereof the conqueror is repreſented to have raiſed the town of Brecon. Gwrgan, Bleddyn's eldeſt

eldeſt ſon, gallantly endeavoured to revenge his father's death, but was likewiſe overcome and confined by Newmarch in the caſtle of Brecon for life.

The following are the Knights who received the various Lordſhips, and other parts of the county, from Bernard de Newmarch for their aſſiſtance to him in ſubduing it. To Sir Riginald Aubrey, Knight, the Lordſhip of Abercynrig; to Sir Peter Gunter the Lordſhip of Gunterſton and Slough; to Sir Humphrey Burchil the Lordſhip of Cerrig-Howel or Crickhowel; to Sir Miles Pritchard the Lordſhip of Yſkethrog; to Sir John Walbeoff the Lordſhips of Llanhamlach, and Tal y Clyn; to Sir Humphrey Solars the Lordſhip of Treduſtan; to Sir Richard de Boys the Lordſhip of Tre-Boys; to Sir Walter Havard the Lordſhip of Pontwylim; to Sir John Surdwall the Lordſhip of Aberyſkir; to Sir John Shwle the Lordſhip of Bolgoed and Crai; to Sir Peter Walwyn the Lordſhip of the Hay; and to Sir Richard Poietwrs the Lordſhip of Peytyn.—*Vide* manuſcript Eſſay for the Hiſtory of Breconſhire.

Within a field which divides the Chrickhowel and Brecon road from Court y Gollen (—— Davies's, Eſq.) is one of thoſe ſepulchral or Druidical remains, of a ſimilar form to thoſe I have ſo often had occaſion to notice through Glamorganſhire.

CRICK-

CRICKHOWEL and LANGATTOCK

are ſmall villages ſituated upon the oppoſite banks of the river Uſk, and are connected together by a ſtone bridge, of fourteen arches, which paſſes that river: theſe villages and the neighbourhood particularly abound with neat and faſhionable houſes; for the abundant attractions which are found about the place have drawn many ſtrangers to it for reſidence. The river is here more than uſually beautified with ſtreams and lakes, and more abundantly ſtocked with fiſh. The vallies and ſmall hills attached to it are ſingularly fertile and pleaſant; and the whole is ſurrounded with a ſucceſſion of ſtately mountains of ſtriking characters, and completely pictureſque.

Near to the Darenkille mountain, which terminates a part of the proſpects from Crickhowel, a remarkable cave opens a way to ſeveral ſubterraneous paſſages that are within the bowels of a ſteep hill adjoining: numbers are often drawn from afar to examine this as a wonderful curioſity, but I have obſerved ſuch apertures are not uncommon in the large ſtratas of lime rock.

Amidſt the hills that are eaſtward of Crickhowel, one is ſeen as ſingled from the uſual rank, and terminates in a conic form; the point of

which is ſurrounded with a high mound of earth, and coped with a fence of looſe ſtones; it is otherwiſe entrenched; and has only one narrow entrance from the adjoining mountain.—The traditional accounts of the country inform us that it was erected by a Welch prince, of the name of Howel, for the purpoſe of guarding this inlet into his country againſt the incroaching power of his Saxon neighbours; and that from hence the town of Crickhowel derived its preſent name.

CRICKHOWEL CASTLE

was once a fortification of very conſiderable magnitude, as is teſtified by the remaining traces of its moats, towers, and other ruins. The ſcite of the keep, or main guard, is of greater ſize than moſt other works of the ſame character. The founder of theſe works is unknown. We find it once poſſeſſed by the Ponsford's; it was afterwards the king's; ſince which we find it with the manor of Crickhowel, the Herbert's; and it is now the property of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort.

Leſs than a mile from Crickhowel, is a druidical remain, commonly called a Cromlech; it conſiſts of a huge unhewn ſtone, meaſuring ten feet in length, ſeven feet eight inches in breadth, and one foot ſeven inches in thickneſs.—This tablet is ſupported by five other ſtones, placed edge-

M.r Williams delin.

I. Ross sculp.

Crickhowel Castle.

edge-ways under it; and it reſts in a declining poſture from the front. For a particular account of theſe altars (for ſuch they are conceived to have been) and the uſes they were anciently applied to, I ſhall refer the inquiſitive reader to the MONA ANTIQUE of Mr. *Rowland*, where he will find them fully and learnedly explained.

Near this part of the paſſage to Brecon on the weſtern ſide of the river Uſk, are two handſome dwellings, the poſſeſſions of Rear Admiral Gell and Captain Frederick. A ſhort way farther towards Brecon, a road leads on the right-hand out of the poſt-way, and paſſing Tretower, Cwmday, and Cwm y foreſt, reaches Talgarth. [*See way by Hay from Hereford.*]

TRETOWER

ſeems to have been a neat though not an extenſive fortification. It was no way entrenched, nor do the out-works appear of ſufficient labour for a ſtrong garriſon. The principal ſtrength appears to have been in a circular tower, of about forty paces wide and thirty feet in height, which was encloſed by an octagonal ſtone fence of much ſtrength, and half the height of the tower; there were entrances to both by a ſmall gateway which opened to the court adjoining, and a flight of ſtone ſtairs led through the outer fence to battlements or breaſt-works which ſeem to have crowned

crowned all that part of the building. The ſituation of it is well choſen to guard the paſſage from the vale of Uſk to that of Cwmday.

From hence, in the paſſage to Brecon, the road for ſome way leaves the courſe of the river Uſk, and ranges ſeveral mountains ſides; upon one of which (Myarth) are large Britiſh entrenchments. The Bwlch is a decent Inn upon the higheſt part of this paſſage; at which place another road leads from the principal one by Blânllynfi Caſtle and Llangorſe-pool to Talgarth, &c.

BLANLLYNFI CASTLE.

Too little of this is now remaining to form a complete judgment of its age, or order of its architecture. It is generally ſuppoſed to have been a Norman fortification; and the adjoining Lordſhips being the poſſeſſions of Sir John Walbeoff, from the conqueror Bernard de Newmarch, cauſes many conjectures that he might have been the original founder. The principal entrance muſt have been from the eaſt, which was well guarded with towers and entrenchments.

The grounds around have traces of large moats, extenſive terrace-walks, gardens, and perhaps large fiſh ponds. Theſe premiſes, after Sir John Walbeoff, were in the family of Langoed; once in that of Sir Philip Butler; from whence

it

it paſſed to the Davies's; and it is now in the poſſeſſion of Philip Creſpeigny, Eſq.

LLANGORSE POOL

is about two miles farther in the way to Talgarth. This lake is computed to cover one thouſand acres of land; its magnitude was much greater, but a drain being made therefrom to the brook called the Llynfig, which paſſes the lands at ſome diſtance below it, a great portion of the waters thereof were thereby conveyed to the river Wye. It abounds with fiſh and wild fowl; and the early accounts of it repreſent the religious orders of Lanthony, Abergavenny, and Brecon, to poſſeſs the rights of its fiſhery. Tallyllynn-Houſe is a conſiderable old manſion near the pool, and has been the common reſidence of the latter lords of the above deſcribed manors.

After paſſing a ſhort way on the road from the Bwlch towards the town of Brecon, a large manſion (Buckland) will appear about a mile to the left, poſſeſſed by one of the ancient family of Gwyn. On the right of the road, at the ſame ſituation, will be ſeen the Alt-hill, remarkable for a very conſiderable ancient encampment, and for giving an extraordinary proſpect upon the neighbouring mountains, and to various vallies which a great way interſect them: it is eaſily paſſed to by means of a ſmall road

which leads from the one to Brecon, and as eaſily deſcended from the oppoſite ſide towards that town.

At Llaneamllech Bridge, which is within two miles of the town of Brecon, there is another common paſſage from the Vale of Uſk to the Breconſhire Hills before deſcribed: and a ſhort way from hence, in the pariſh of Llanfrynach, a few years back, were diſcovered the remains of a large Roman bath; but the depredations which were conſtantly made on the lands where they were diſcovered by the numerous viſitors thereto, have induced the proprietor to plough them in; and they are not now viſible.

The travellers upon this road have, from this part, the beſt proſpect of the Van or Breconſhire Beacon; for being unfolded from head to foot from its uſual barriers of mountains, it is a ſpectacle of ſuperior grandeur.

As the paſſages from the vallies, which we have laſt deſcribed, to theſe vaſt weſtern hills, from whence the inhabitants draw their coal, lime, &c. are inacceſſible to wheel-carriages, thoſe materials are moſtly conveyed to them in bags upon the backs of horſes, and mules; and thoſe who conſider that there is no progeny from the latter animals, are ſurprized where ſuch multitudes are produced as are ſeen in this employ.

BRECON:

called in the Welch, Aberhonddu. It is ſituated near the junction of the rivers Honddu and Uſk. In the firſt accounts of this town, dated 981, it appears to have been totally deſtroyed by the Mercian prince, Duke Alfrid; but Howel, king of North Wales, with Einion, the ſon of Owen, the prince of South Wales, defeated and routed this invader about the year 1067. Bernard de Newmarch, making himſelf maſter of this province, (as before obſerved), built the town and fortified it with a ſtrong caſtle and town wall: it was next given from his family by a grant from Henry I. to Miles Fitz-Walters; and from their ſucceſſors it fell to Phillip de Bruce, or Broes, Lord Bruce of Pembre. In 1217, it was violently threatened by Prince Llewelyn, and a powerful force of native Britons; but at this time, Llewelyn appears to have been drawn from the actual aſſault of it by the preſents and perſuaſions of the inhabitants. After this period, we find it in the poſſeſſion of William de Bruce; and next, the Earl of Hereford; when Llewelyn ſeriouſly attacked, and, after a month's ſiege, poſſeſſed himſelf thereof; at which time he took and deſtroyed all the towns and caſtles in this county. It was next poſſeſſed by Humphry Bohun; in which family and name it continued until it fell to Thomas Plantagenet, the 6th ſon of Edward III. It next fell into the hands of King Henry V. of Monmouth, who granted the town

many privileges, about the year 1420. It was again in the Bohun's; next the Stafford's; and next again with the crown.

Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. is the preſent lord of theſe manors; within which he has much property.

The caſtle poſſeſſed a conſiderable ſpace on an eminence that paſſes the weſtern ſide of the town, from whence it muſt have once ſhewn itſelf a great and grand ſpectacle. The common entrance to it appears to have been by way of a bridge which croſſed Honddu; which paſſage was protected with ſtrong towers and double gates: from other parts the out-works had for ſome way inacceſſible declivities, which fell from them; and ſome parts were artfully entrenched for conſiderable ſpaces about them.

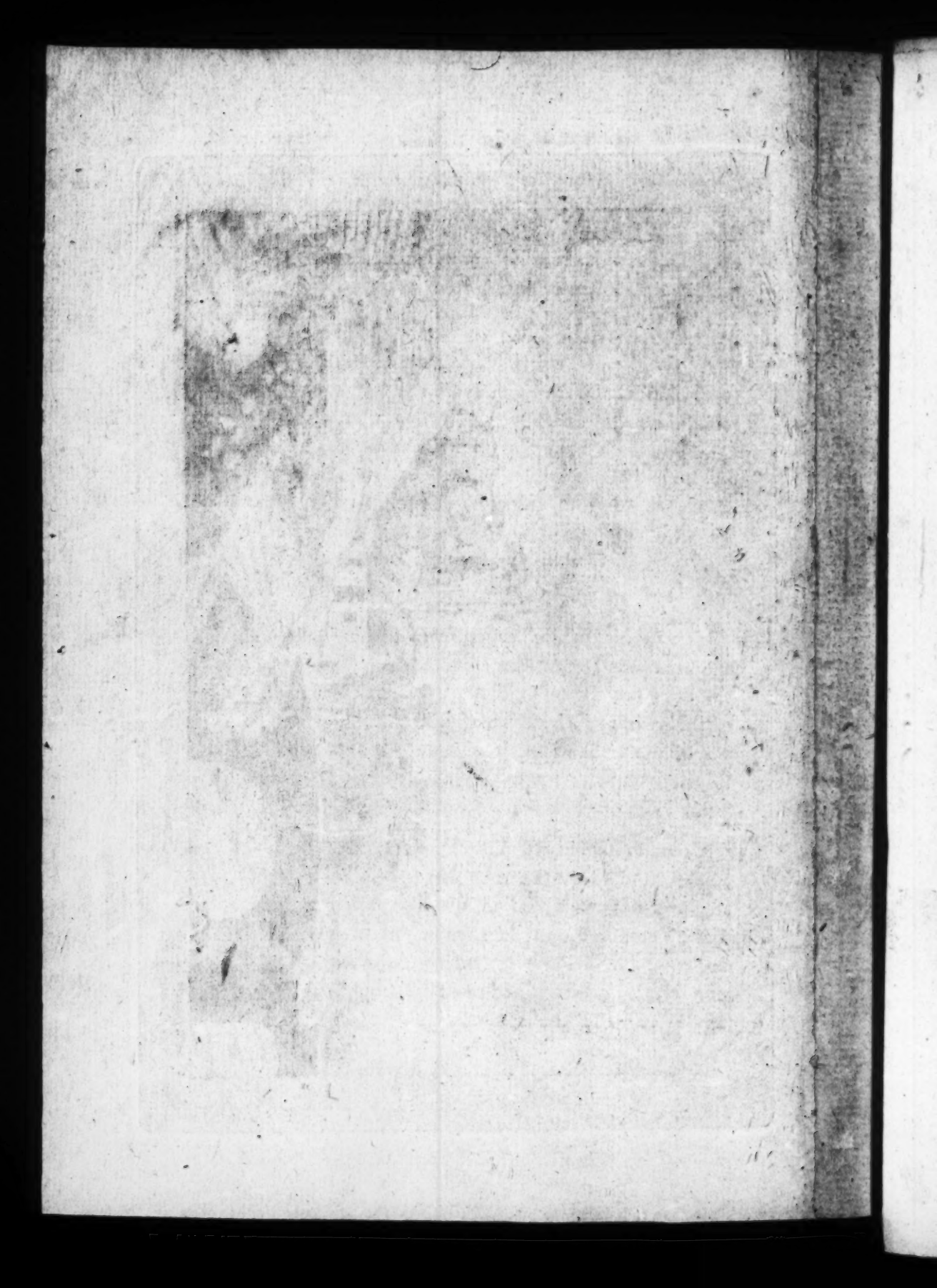
Doctor Moreton, Biſhop of Ely, was, by order of the Protector Richard, afterwards King Richard, ſome time a priſoner in this caſtle. He was committed to the cuſtody of Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. Hiſtory ſays, this meaſure provoked Ely and his friends to the deſign of overthrowing that tyrant, and the promotion of Henry, Earl of Richmond, to the crown of England; which great event was projected by them in a tower of this caſtle, the ruin of which is ſeen in the engraved view of it; and ſtill bears the name of Ely tower.

The

T. Cartwright Sculp.t

Brecon Castle.

For Bakers Guide.



The walls of the town appear to have been entered by four different fortified gates; and there were ſtrong towers attached to ſeveral parts of their circle, from whence the inhabitants might reconnoitre or annoy their aſſailants.

Brecon has long been in notice for the reſidences of more families of fortune than any town of South Wales. It has a number of faſhionable houſes, and a large handſome town-hall. It has a market well provided, and well frequented; beſides which a ſpirit for trade ſeems ariſing in ſome of the inhabitants, which may lead to other internal improvements, and more largely connect it to the ſmaller towns and manufactories of the adjoining counties.

The priory, which remains a good object to the ſight, was Dominican, and was a cell, under the abbey of Battel in Suſſex. It was founded in the year 1100 by Bernard de Newmarch, and was amply endowed. It was granted at the diſſolution to that famous Welch antiquarian, Sir John Price.

Conſiderable pains and expences have been ſometime uſed by the inhabitants here in forming a public walk, called the Priory Walk: it ran by commodious paths amidſt the woods and rocks which variouſly ornament the rapid courſe of the little river Honddu.—It is now pitiouſly neglected; and the common promenade of the faſhionables

faſhionables is confined to a ſmall terrace that is ſouth-eaſt of the town, called the Captain's Walk. A good near view of the place and adjacent country is gained upon the caſtle hill; or lengthening the walk to the Gar, which is leſs than a mile from the latter place, the view extends to a large circle of the diſtant mountains. Brecon has ſeveral well-managed and commodious inns,

The ROAD *from* TRECASTLE *to* BRECON

paſſes a neat ſtone bridge from the latter place, and for ſeveral miles makes its courſe on the oppoſite ſide of the Uſk to that it has hitherto travelled. In the pariſh of St. David, which is entered at paſſing the bridge, are ſeen ſeveral good ſpecimens of ancient architecture; ſome parts of them are probably the remains of a college of Friar-Medicants, which has been deſcribed here, and which was ſuppreſſed by King Henry VIII. The ſame king afterwards tranſlated hither, and properly endowed, the ancient college of Abergelly: this latter we find was ſuppreſſed by Cromwell; but on the ſame premiſes there has ſince been eſtabliſhed a reſpectable grammar ſchool, where many of the youth of the county are educated. Near the county gaol, which is paſſed a ſhort way from the town, there is ſeen an old manſion (Newtown): this was long the reſidence of the ancient family of the Gam's; and it is pronounced by the natives of the country

try to have been the poſſeſſion of that valiant loyaliſt, Sir Davey Gam, he whom the hiſtory of the kingdom has ſo often recorded; and whoſe character the immortal Shakeſpear took occaſion to celebrate under the name of Fluellen, in his play of Henry the Vth. It is recorded that Owen Glyn Dwr, Gam's great and formidable antagoniſt, in one of his depredatory excurſions, deſtroyed this houſe with fire, and meeting with one of Gam's tenants, he humouroufly ſpoke to him in Welch verſe to the following purport:

" If thou ſeeeſt a red-hair'd, ſquint-ey'd man looking for his loſt ſheep, tell him ſhe is below the hill, and he may know her as ſhe is marked with fire."*

About this part of the paſſage from Brecon, a good turnpike road is formed to paſs amidſt the moſt mountainous parts of the county of Brecon unto Merthyr Tidvil; and a ſhort way farther, one leſs complete paſſes by Yſtradwellte and Pontnedvaughn to Neath, Swanſea, &c.

Caſtel Morlais is obſerved in the way to Merthyr. It is part of the ruins of a fortification, once of great magnitude: it occupied the ſummit of one of the loweſt hills in that part of the

* " Squint-Ey'd," in the Britiſh language, is " Gam."

country,

country, from whence the river Taffe ariſes. It had command of ſeveral paſſes from the mountains above it to ſome ſmall vallies that are below; and it is a great way open to the view of vaſt mountains, which at a diſtance ſurround the whole. All certain knowledge of the founder is loſt; many ſuppoſe it to have been often uſed by the ancient Britons.—It is within the territories of the Right Hon. the Earl of Bute.

There are ſome traditional accounts inform us Pen-Craig, which appears ſo plain from this part of the road from Brecon to Trecaſtle, was the camp of Fitz Hammon and Tuſtin ap Gurgant, before their battle with Rees; and there being two other encampments, evidently Britiſh, in the ſame neighbourhood, is a circumſtance which gives plauſibility to the opinion: but on the other hand, as it is ſo near the ancient Gaer, or Caer Vong of the Romans, it ſeems as likely to have been the work of thoſe people. Some have gone ſo far as to pronounce the Gaer, or Caer Vong, abovementioned, to have been the celebrated Roman ſtation of Bullœum,* though moſt hiſtorians affix it to the neighbouring town of Builth. Many antique trifles are repeatedly found hereabouts, (beſides thoſe mentioned by *Camden* and others), which unqueſtionably came from the hands of the Romans: ſome of which,

* See Gentleman's Magazine for Dec. 1787.

ſuch

ſuch as clay utenſils, coins, &c. bear the ſame characters and dates as thoſe which have been ſo often diſcovered at Caerleon, Uſk, and Abergavenny; from which circumſtance it may be farther conjectured, that a part of the ſame legion might have had a ſtation here, as were inhabitants of the latter places.

PENPONT

is a handſome little manſion, ſituated upon the moſt beautiful part of the border of Uſk that lies above Brecon; moſt of the country this way bordering that river, conſiſts of pleaſant paſture grounds and ſmall verdant hills; the latter are commonly enriched and beautified with large groves and ſmall woods of thriving oak timber: other diſtances which the ſight reaches from hence are commonly compoſed of ſmooth mountains, which are ſometimes ſeen extending into large dimenſions. Penpont is the reſidence of Mrs. Williams, the widow of J. Williams, Eſq. To this latter gentleman, and a few of his neighbours, travellers on this road are indebted for a ſingular accommodation; for, by their deſign and exertions, the way from Brecon to Trecaſtle was turned from its uſual perilous and tedious courſe over a waſte of dreary mountains, to a commodious track upon moderate elevations among productive hills and through pictureſque vallies; ſome of which were heretofore almoſt

inacceſſible: where it travels the valley of Cwm y Dwr, (which in Welch is *the way through the wood*), the muſical little river Gwydderig accompanies it; and, in this part of it, it enters the county of Carmarthen.

TRECASTLE

is a ſmall inconſiderable village that is paſſed on this way. The poor natives of it have a favourite boaſt that it was once a town of very conſiderable extent, and the principal one of the county of Brecon: it was evidently once fortified—the keep of the caſtle is eaſily traced, as are the marks of conſiderable foſſes and open mounds which ſurround it.

The traveller has a choice of roads from Trecaſtle to Llandilo; one has a more ſouthern direction than the other, croſſing the great mountain (Talſarn), where he is elevated to a moſt commanding view of the mountainous parts of Glamorganſhire, Carmarthenſhire, and Breconſhire; after which it deſcends into a pleaſant part of the valley of Towy, through which it travels to Llandilo. A few yards from this road, within five miles of Llandilo, is a perfect Cromlech, of a like conſtruction to that deſcribed near Crickhowel; and on a mountain adjoining to it is a very extenſive Britiſh encampment. In this paſſage, the river Uſk is ſeen a ſmall, inconſiderable

derable rivulet, the ſource of which is about five miles from Trecaſtle. What is called the New Road, before deſcribed, is the coach road, and the one moſt in uſe.

LANDOVERY, or LLANYMDDYFRI,

is ſituated where ſeveral ſmall ſtreams connect themſelves to the river Towy, viz. the Bowdder, the Bran, and the Gwydderig. The vallies that are directed by the way of them to the town, are in moſt parts productive, and they are well peopled by ſmall freeholders and cottage farmers; hence the markets of Landovery are plentiful and much frequented. It is governed by a bailiff, who, until ſome privileges were loſt, was *magiſtratus*, and had his inferior body of town officers. There are ſome remains of a caſtle, which muſt have been in much uſe, and of great antiquity, being often noticed in the wars of Wales.—It is now in the family of Goldengrove. Beſides the common coach inn here, there are ſeveral inferior ones, at which travellers are well provided.

There are ſeveral good turnpike roads that take different directions out of the principal coach way to Carmarthen, and which lead into the following places:

The firſt, which turns on the right hand from hence, leads to Builth: this, in a ſhort way, reaches

reaches Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, or St. Margaret's. On the hill at this place, was anciently a

ROMAN STATION

of conſiderable eſtabliſhment: numberleſs relics from their workmanſhip have been latterly diſcovered by the labourers employed by the Rev. Mr. Lewis, to improve his premiſes; and they are properly preſerved.—The fortreſs, or citadel, poſſeſſed all that end of the hill next Landovery; and by the induſtry of the above gentleman, three Roman cauſeways have been clearly traced which led from the citadel for ſome way to the north-eaſt to a weſtward and north-weſt direction from it.

Glanbraine, by which the firſt-mentioned cauſeway paſſed, is two miles and a half on the way to Builth. It is a large old manſion belonging to the family of Gwyns; an extenſive park is attached to it, and conſiderable gardens, pleaſure grounds, and orchards; but the houſe has an unpleaſant ſituation, and the improvements, from a want of proper attention to them, have an unprofitable appearance.

Another turnpike road leaves Landovery at the ſame ſide the town, and paſſes amidſt the large weſtern mountains to Llanpeter, Pont-Stephen, Cardigan, Aberyſtwyth, and various other parts

parts which will be deſcribed in the tour to Cardigan. One Pritchard, a vicar of Llandovery, about the year 1644, diſtinguiſhed himſelf by preſenting his countrymen a volume of excellent Welch poems; they are moſtly upon religious ſubjects: the work is called *The Welchmen's Candle*. It has been tranſlated into Engliſh by Evans, a gentleman who had before gained reputation from his own poetical compoſitions; but his tranſlation of Pritchard is conſidered by the Welch to be very unequal to the original.

The Biographers repreſent Pritchard, at one period of his life, to be a perſon of very diſſolute morals, and particularly in the habit of drunkenneſs: at this time a tame goat conſtantly attended him through his duty and pleaſures, until ſome of his tippling companions, in a mood of ſport, preſſed ſuch a quantity of ale upon the animal as produced intoxication; and from that time the faithful creature, though he continued his attendance to other places, could never be prevailed on to enter an ale-houſe; and this example of prudence in a brute is ſaid to have worked ſo powerfully on the mind of Pritchard, as to cauſe his reformation, and thus prepared him for thoſe moral and pious leſſons he ſo beautifully drew.

LLANDOVERY to LLANDILO.

The road croſſes the river Towy about half a mile from the latter place, which it afterwards leaves at a diſtance on the left hand. The firſt notable object that appears in this ſtage is Llynybrain, a handſome dwelling in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Rice.

ABERMARLAIS

is about the midway of this ſtage. It is the ruin of a large and extenſive habitation once in the family of Cornwallis; and it is ſuppoſed to have been more anciently the royal reſidence of ſome of the princes of South Wales. Upon an oaken tablet that remains as a fixture to theſe premiſes, the following is engraven, "Urien Rheged King of Rheged in Ireland King of Gower in South Wales and Lord of Tſeynan he married the daughter of the Emperor of Great Britain and lived in the time of King Arther."

Through the remaining part of this ſtage the proſpects will be found more extenſive than any that have before preſented themſelves. At thoſe ſpots where the paſſenger is moſt elevated, an artiſt may find the beſt leſſons for remote landſcape; the choiceſt materials are every way at hand with which to form his foregrounds; and

and he will find at every diſtance, mountains of all dimenſions, poſſeſſing every feature neceſſary for his ſkreens.

Mr. Dyer has very beautifully diſplayed the ſubjects that are comprehended in theſe views by the following lines, which are extracted from his Poem of GRONGAR HILL:

" Wide and wider ſpreads the vale,
As circles on a ſmooth canal;
The mountains round, unhappy fate,
Sooner or later of all height,
Withdraw their ſummits from the ſkies,
And leſſen as the others riſe.

Still the proſpect wider ſpreads,
Adds a thouſand woods and meads;
Still it widens, widens ſtill,
And ſinks the newly riſen hill.

Old caſtles on the cliffs ariſe,
Proudly tow'ring in the ſkies;
Ruſhing from the woods, the ſpires
Seem from hence aſcending fires.
Half its beams Apollo ſheds
On the yellow mountains' heads;
Gilds the fleeces of the flocks,
And glitters on the broken rocks.
The fountains fall, the rivers flow,
The woody vallies warm and low,
The windy ſummit wild and high,
Roughly ruſhing on the ſky;
The pleaſant ſeat, the ruin'd tower,
The naked rock, the ſhady bower,
The town and village, dome and farm,—
Each give to each a double charm,
As pearls upon an Ethiop's arm."

There are numberleſs mounds of piled earth or ſtones appear from hence upon the higheſt parts of the moſt remote mountains; they are the hearths of the ancient beacons. On ſome of theſe heights there are three ſuch marks at about equal diſtances from each other, by means of which many different ſignals might have evidently been repeated from the ſame ſpot. Thoſe who have curioſity to conſider of the many points at which they ſhew themſelves through theſe parts of the country, and other more diſtant ways, will perhaps conclude that the ingenuity of thoſe ancients who deſigned them, is but little outdone by the labouring Telegraph of the preſent day.

There is a road leads ſouthward from Llandovery to the village of Llangadoc; and from the laſt place it croſſes the river Towy, and again returns into the poſt road near Abermarlais. On this way are ſeen handſome ſeats of the families of the Price's, the Williams's, and the Lloyd's.

LLANGADOC.

It is a conſiderable Welch village. Its ſituation is on a ſpacious plain that adjoins the river Towy. Here being but little thoroughfare, the place is ill provided with inns; but in fine ſummers this inconvenience is diſpenſed with by the lovers of angling, for the abundant ſports of the river.

Beſides

Beſides excellent trout, ſalmon, &c. they have here great quantities of ſewen: it is caught like the ſalmon by angling with an artificial fly, or by men (in a ſort of boat called a coracle) with nets.

Some traces are ſtill left of the caſtle of Llangadoc. Its principal works, like thoſe of Llandovery caſtle, were raiſed upon firm baſes of natural rocks; theſe rocks appear to ſome height above the level of a gravelly valley, and no other ſtrata of the ſame nature is within half a mile of either.

LLANDILO, or LLANDILOVAWR,

is pleaſantly ſituated near the ſtream of Towy, under an eaſtern point of one of thoſe irregular but fertile hills, which often embelliſh the borders of that river. It is the ſecond town of Carmarthenſhire, and has ſome genteel buildings and good inns. The market here produces variety of proviſions; the ſalmon, ſewen, and trout, are drawn at their ſeaſons in great abundance from the river; the neighbouring hills and vallies have equal quantities of hares, partridges, and woodcocks; the diſtant mountains yield grouſe in ſummer, and many aquatic birds are alſo drawn to them in ſevere winters from the ſea-coaſt. At this place there was once an extenſive fortification, but no veſtige of its building at preſent remains. Llandilo

is

is noted for being near the ſpot where the battle was fought between Prince Llewelin and Edward the Firſt, which happily ended that dreadful ſucceſſion of deſolating civil wars which ſo long interrupted the proſperity of this iſland.

"When, like a matron butcher'd by her ſons,
Our groaning country bled at ev'ry vein;
When murders, rapes, and maſſacres prevail'd;
When churches, palaces, and cities blaz'd;
When inſolence and barbariſm triumph'd,
And ſwept away diſtinction—low were laid
The reverend croſier and the holy mitre;
And deſolation covered all the land."

The neighbourhood of Llandilo is particularly diſtinguiſhed with the reſidences of many families of rank and faſhion.

TALIARIS,

the ſeat of Lord Robert Seymour Conway, is ſeen for ſeveral miles while on the road from Llandovery to this town. It is of conſiderable ſize and good faſhion, and is handſomely ſtationed under ſhelter of countleſs hills which ſtretch from thence towards the north. The laudable regard which the honorable proprietor has for the purſuits of agriculture and other rural labours, is producing haſty improvements to theſe poſſeſſions.

Manerabon is ſeated on a pleaſing level that for a conſiderable way extends on the ſouth of the

the Towy; and a ſhort way on the riſing lands above, Admiral Lloyd has a handſome property. Innumerable other genteel reſidences, ancient and modern, poſſeſſing admired ſituations, are ſeen from the heights about Llandilo.

A good turnpike road is made to paſs from hence toward the north by Taliaris, Talley Abbey, and Edwinsford.

TALLEY ABBEY

is recorded to have been founded for premonſtratenſes by Reeſe, ſon of Griffith Prince of Wales, who died 1197. It had eight canons; was valued at 36l. 9s. 7d. but was ſuppreſſed by Henry VIII; and the family of Abermarlais was preſented with the revenues thereof. The ſituation of it is a confined valley; the ways about which are commonly mountainous, and often barren. Its ruins are more ſtately than beauteous; enough of which remain to form a ſtriking contraſt to the humble ſtate of the preſent poſſeſſors of the lowly vale.

RHYD ODIN, or EDWINSFORD,

is the ſeat of Sir James Hamlyn, Baronet. More anciently the ſeat of Sir Nicholas Williams, Bart. It is a very ancient, elegant manſion, pleaſingly ſtationed upon the borders of the river Cothy; upon the banks of which, nearer its ſource, ſeveral

veral other families of faſhion had formerly good habitations. It is conjectured, ſeveral extenſive mines have been worked hereabouts by the Romans, particularly at a famous hill called Gogova; the inſide of which is completely perforated through and through in various directions, with the levels, ſhafts, &c. which they formerly made. This being, in their time, the only part of the iſland where they procured copper, and that pure without any alloy, it is ſuppoſed they worked it completely out; experiments having been ſince made to find ore, but without ſucceſs.

Some years ago, the preſent Sir Joſeph Banks explored the cavities of this hill; where, in a ſort of mole mauſoleum, they found a ſtone coffin, which, with difficulty being opened, there appeared the ſkeleton (the bones being complete) of a man, of immenſe ſize and ſtature: by his ſide, in the coffin, lay a ſpear of prodigious weight, and an iron helmet; but no proper mark or inſcription appeared to inform him whoſe it might have been.

At a ſhort diſtance upon the road from Llandilo to Swanſea, before deſcribed, a way is made to

CASTLE CARREG CYNAN, or CARREG CENEN.

This extraordinary production of nature and art is ſituated amidſt that mountainous and unfrequented

unfrequented part of the country that lies for ſeveral miles ſouth-eaſt from Llandilo: it is at the head of a valley, through which appears to have once been the moſt eligible paſſage from the lands bordering on Carmarthen Bay to the mountainous parts of Breconſhire and Glamorganſhire; and might have been firſt raiſed to protect that paſſage. It occupies the lofty point of a craggy inſulated rock. The ruins above the earth, though extenſive, are now greatly deformed; chiefly conſiſting of ſtout portions of irregular walls and towers, within which, according to *Camden*, "it abounded with vaſt caverns, wherein, in the time of war, ſuch as were unfit for arms are thought to have concealed themſelves." By uncommon labour, a remarkable paſſage has been made for many fathoms depth through the centre of the hill to a ſpring of water; the well of which is recorded to have ebbed and flowed contrary to the tide. The waters that now iſſue from theſe ſprings are held in great eſtimation by people of the neighbourhood, for their great ſalubrious qualities. It is, with the manor, adjoining part of the eſtates of the proprietor of Golden Grove; which proprietor holds a copyhold court upon it, from which he anciently derived very extraordinary privileges, having been authorized therein to paſs a fine of ſix ſhillings and eightpence upon all marriages which were contracted within ſuch lordſhip; or, on failure, might

challenge the firſt night's lodging with the bride. This cuſtom alſo prevailed in many other lordſhips in Wales—It was called, *Kwebr Merch*, or the Maiden's Fee.

In 1248, Rhys Fychan appears to have won Carreg Cynan from the Engliſh, to whom his mother privately delivered it. It was given by Henry the Seventh to Sir Rice ap Thomas; and being forfeited, it fell to Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carbery.

About one mile from Carreg Cynan is an old gothic building, which has much the character of the ancient religious ſeminaries. The inner court of it is nearly entire; around are the remains of ſeveral large apartments, and curious gothic ornaments. It is called in the Welch

BRIN Y BEIRDD,

which in Engliſh, is the Bard's Court on the Hill; and there is a legend, greatly credited by the natives, that numberleſs ancient Britiſh bards did long inhabit or convocate at this place.

The SOURCE of the River LOGHOR, or LAUGHER,

is another curioſity of this country. It emerges from an hill in a ſtream of water that is perhaps as copious as the famed ſpring of Holywell in Flintſhire. Some have explored for many roods its ſubterraneous paſſage; and it is ſuppoſed to have formed itſelf into a ſtrong current

J. Baker del.

Source of the Laugher

J. Bluck fecit.

rent for a great diſtance within the bowels of the adjoining mountain. It greatly multiplies in a ſhort paſſage from hence by the numberleſs currents that are conſtantly falling into it from the adjacent hills. In a few miles it paſſes Pontarddylas; and ſoon after meets the tides of Carmarthen Bay.

DYNAS VAWR, or DYNEVOR CASTLE.

The park and pleaſure grounds of this domain for a great way adjoin the road that leads from Carmarthen to Llandilo. On theſe premiſes a long ſucceſſion of the illuſtrious South-Wallian Prince Ap Rhys, have had their reſidence; and from whom the preſent noble proprietor, Lord Dynevor, is the lineal deſcendant. The manſion, out-buildings, great portion of the garden grounds, rides and walks, were planned and executed under the direction of the late maſter, George Rice, Eſq. The houſe is neat and elegant. The other parts of the premiſes are in great perfection, particularly its park, which is much admired for its exquiſite diverſity—It is a complete rotund of woods, ſhrubberies, hills, dales, ſlopes and ſweeps.

About a mile from the preſent building, on a large promontory that overlooks the moſt pictureſque part of the valley of Towy, is the ancient fortification from whence the family manſion takes its name. The entrance to it

was

was from the ſouth: on other ſides it is ſurrounded by moats, walls, and ſteep rocks, whereby it was rendered a place of great ſecurity. The keep, which is near the entrance, and other leſs towers have circular forms; the inner court is about fifty paces wide; extenſive fortified ways encircle this, and many diſtant entrenchments poſſeſſed other parts of the premiſes. Thoſe terraces and battlements of it, which are ſituated near the ſtoney precipices that aſſiſt to ſupport them, afford the beholder a bird's-eye view of the river Towy and other adjacent ſubjects that is delightful.—The following is Mr. *Dyer*'s picture of this caſtle from the neighbouring hill of Grongar.

" Gaudy as the opening dawn,
Lies a long and level lawn;
On which a dark hill, ſteep and high,
Holds and charms the wand'ring eye.
Deep are his feet in Towy's flood,
His ſides are cloath'd with waving wood;
And ancient towers crown his brow,
That caſt an awful look below;
Whoſe rugged walls the ivy creeps,
And with her arms from falling keeps:
So both a ſafety from the wind
On mutual dependence find.
'Tis now the raven's bleak abode—
'Tis now th' apartment of the toad;
And there the fox ſecurely feeds;
And there the poiſonous adder breeds,
Conceal'd in ruins and in weeds:
While ever and anon there falls
Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls.

Yet

Yet time has ſeen, that lifts the low
And level lays the lofty brow,
Has ſeen this broken pile, complete,
Big with the vanity of ſtate:
But tranſient is the ſmile of fate!
A little rule, a little ſway,
A ſun-beam in a winter's day,
Is all the proud and mighty have
Between the cradle and the grave.

LLANDILO to CARMARTHEN.

On the left of this road, about two miles on the way, is Grongar Hill: an encampment of great extent and ſtrength has occupied this poſt; and it is made otherwiſe remarkable by Mr. *Dyer*'s excellent poem, from which the foregoing is extracted. Mr. *Dyer* was a native of this country, and might contemplate Grongar with a partial affection; for others direct the curious to heights which adjoin the valley of Towy that encompaſs more various and extenſive views, particularly Penallt-Mawr and Allt-Fyrddin.

At the Croſs Hands, which is about four miles from Llandilo, a good road leads on the right to the pariſh of Llanfynidd. Near two miles on this way is Pantglas, the ſeat of R. P. Lloyd, Eſq. near which, William Davis, Eſq. has another neat poſſeſſion: theſe eſtates, particularly the former, abound with woodlands; and though they are of great altitude above the vale of Towy, their lands have much fertility.

On the Pantglas eſtate are ſeveral curious antiquities; and it is generally ſuppoſed that the Romans had a ſettlement and military ſtations thereon: at Ynisfarin might have been the firſt, and Kilgannwr and Llanegwad are anſwerable to the general deſcription of the latter works. A conſiderable tumulus remains at Ynisfarin, like thoſe ſo often found within the bounds of ancient caſtles; and ſeveral parts of armour, hilts of ſwords, and warlike inſtruments, have at times been found upon the premiſes. The country legend ſays, a great battle was fought hereabouts: and the burying place of one army is deſcribed to be at Ynisfarin, the other at Penyknapp, which is near Llanegwad church. The ſame account reports much wealth to have been concealed during thoſe wars, particularly a golden table of vaſt magnitude.—It will prove what confidence the natives have in ſuch narratives by relating, that a band of them, a few years ſince, providing themſelves with pikes, ſpades, &c. repaired to the ſpot where it was conjectured theſe treaſures lay hid, and, but for the interference of the proprietor of the land, they would probably have as deeply intrenched themſelves in it as any marauding pioneers ſince the days of Roderic or Cæſar. About eight miles from Carmarthen the road paſſes the river Cothy: the ſcenery of this river is moſtly made up with woods and rocks; they are commonly in ſmall portions, but moſt romantically varied.

ABER-

ABERGWILLY, or ABERGELLY,

is about two miles from Carmarthen. It is a ſmall inconſiderable village, but had a collegiate church of fourteen prebends, until tranſlated by Henry VIII. to Brecon; and it now contains the only habitable palace that belongs to the Biſhop of St. David. There are various picturesque hills which are ſeen at different diſtances from thence, and the intermediate Towy meanders amidſt them in great beauty. One of the hills is called Merlin's Hill; there is alſo a wood near to it, called Merlin's Grove; a ſpring called Merlin's Spring; and a large aperture in a neighbouring rock is named Merlin's Cave: the legendary tales of the country record it as the reſidence of the ſage of that name, who flouriſhed about the year 480; nay, ſome of the credulous profeſs that his ſpirit ſtill haunts theſe hoary ſcenes, the hill being often ſtrangely agitated by it, and that his voice is ſtill ſometimes heard within the bowels of the earth below. Hiſtory ſays of this man that his mother was a nun, and belonged to a nunnery, the remains of which were viſible in the time of *Leland;* that ſhe was prevented owning his father from the fear of puniſhment; but that Merlin, when a boy, declared to King Vortigern that his father was a Roman. Old hiſtorians repreſent him as a great prophet, or magician: but later writers only deſcribe him to have been a man of particular learning and

prudence; and that his ſkill in mathematics poſſeſſed the vulgar with ſuch ſtrange opinions of his power.

On the fore-ground, firm ſtation'd on rock-founded hill,
Is the caſtle, the manſion, the lodge, or the vill;
Here ſtubborn oaks ſhade, and there pines lightly bend,
Here paſtures, there ſtreamlets, and lawns without end;
Or yeomen poſſeſs fertile rings of a dale,
Or ſhepherds emboſom on ſlopes to the vale.
How graceful, how peaceful, that ſeat in the dell—
'Tis mark'd by "torn ſhrubs"—a fam'd bard knew it well;
There bideth the prieſt, whom the pariſh holds dear,
Still gay and content with his two ſcores a year.

At yon height, for ſo ancient mythology tells,
Unfathomly deep in the rifts of its cells—
A magical ſpright of Sage Merlin*—yet dwells.*
When ſtars ſhine enraptur'd, the lab'rinth it leaves
To ſpell the vaſt firmament wrote in the waves.
From ſands through the woodlands and highlands it roves,
Converſing with ſatyrs and nymphs of the groves;
Thence o'er hill-tops and dell-tops it ſpeedily flies,
To whiſper with Zephyrus lodg'd in the ſkies.
But quick, when the morn's triple clarion blows,
It reſts its light form in diurnal repoſe.

" On the mountain ſide fix'd, at far diſtance, we find
" The peaceful abode of the hard working hind;
" Who deſtin'd to move in a very ſmall ſphere,
" And knowing but little, has little to fear.
" Each day he attends to the ſpade or the plough,
" And earns what he eats by the ſweat of his brow:
" No wines nor yet ſpirits his paſſions enflame,
" Which, pleaſing the palate, enervate the frame.—
" Then ſhame on the man and his ill-apply'd wealth,
" Whoſe luxury preys on the vitals of health;
" Who ſquanders away what, in truſt, has been given,
" And murders himſelf with the bleſſings of heav'n."*

* The Author is indebted to the friendſhip of Mr. COLLS for the finiſhing lines of this piece.

There

Baker Black

Drysllwyn Castle with Cronger Hill

There is another way from Llandilo to

CARMARTHEN by the Borders of the Towy.

This croſſes the river at Llandilo, and thence paſſes near Golden Grove, Dryſllwyn Caſtle, Llanarthrey, Middleton Hall, &c.

GOLDEN GROVE

was the ancient reſidence of the Vaughan's, Earls of Carbery. The preſent poſſeſſor is John Vaughan, Eſq. a gentleman of large eſtate in this county. The manſion is near the edge of the valley of Towy, and the park extends over a great diſtance of the heights that adjoin thereto; the latter is ſaid to have once exhibited the largeſt growth of oak timber in theſe parts; which circumſtance is ſaid to have given name to this eſtate—But alas! the woodman's ſturdy ſtroke has long ſince levelled this diſtinction.

DRYSLLWYN CASTLE

poſſeſſes a ſmall conic hill that has a ſingular ſituation in the middle of the valley; moſt ſides of it, on account of their ſteepneſs, are nearly inacceſſible. All that remains of this ruin, appears in the annexed view.—It is part of the eſtates of Golden Grove. At the village of Llanarthrey there is a decent inn for refreſhment; and it is within a mile of Mr. Paxton's elegant premiſes of

MID-

MIDDLETON HALL.

Near where the river Cothy falls into the Towy, a handſome ſtone bridge, called Pont Newied, or Newbridge, paſſes carriages again acroſs that river into the poſt-road, before deſcribed; but the horſe and foot paſſengers are recommended to continue their way upon the ſouth border of the valley, for thus they are led to the beſt proſpects of thoſe numberleſs beauties which ariſe from Towy and decorate the adjacent country.

ROAD *from* GLOCESTER *to* LEDBURY, *&c.*

Beginning this journey, the traveller paſſes from Gloceſter over the ſame cauſeway which before directed him towards Roſs; at the end of which it leaves the Roſs road to paſs along the edge of a large level of common land, called Maſe-Meer, and, after croſſing different bridges near the Ledbury canal and the old channel of the river Severn, he finds a ſmall inconſiderable village in his way, bearing the name of the Meer abovementioned. In the diſtance of two miles of his future paſſage, the road often elevates him to excellent ſituations for viewing the fertile borders and beauteous heights that attach themſelves to the Severn about Gloceſter; four miles from which place, near the edge of Corſe-Lawn, is the beſt and laſt view of all the proſtrate parts of theſe ſubjects; but in a forward look to the country he has to paſs, a freſh ſucceſſion

ceſſion of objects open to him, and invite his attention.—Afar the imperial Malvern Hills ariſe into his proſpect to delight with their fantaſtic forms; or he may contemplate on the placid lawn, which largely extends under his eye in a nearer view.

CORSE-LAWN

is a waſte or common which comprehends near 3000 acres of land. Its herbage proves excellent food for ſheep; and within ſome of its ſoils there are found uſeful ſtone quarries for building.

The only genteel reſidences that are contiguous to this road, are near the end of it, and belong to the Hon. John Sommers Cocks, and the Rev. Mr. Howe, in the pariſh of Ridmarley d'Abitot; next to them, on one of thoſe gradual ſlopes which appear from the road as falling between the loweſt declivities of Malvern Hills to a level with the lands below, is ſeen Bromſberrow-Place, the property of W. H. Yate, Eſq. and on a fertile eminence which adjoins to Bromſberrow Common, W. Brooks, Eſq. has a neat reſidence. Two miles from Ledbury, is Park-Houſe, a neglected manſion, once uſeful to the proprietors of a large domain around it, now in the family of Lord Somers. The proſpects from hence are beautifully terminated with tufted hills; and groves of thriving oaks, in grand ſucceſſion, interſect the ſcene.

All

All that portion of the paſſage thus deſcribed, which leads to Corſe-Lawn, is in the county of Gloceſter; on the left of which, about a mile from the laſt named place, is

THE VINEYARD,

a conſiderable encampment, ſuppoſed Britiſh. The ſite of it is a ſmall eminence ariſing out of that part of the vale of Severn where that river receives, from Marchly Hills, a little brook, called the Lidon.

On Corſe-Lawn the counties of Gloceſter and Worceſter are united; and at this place a road leads from that to Ledbury through the more northern part of the Lawn to Upton, alſo by the ſmall village of Forthampton to a ferry which croſſes the traveller to Tewkeſbury. About two miles to the left of Corſe-Lawn, is

HARTPURY,

the old poſſeſſion of the ancient and honourable family of Compton. All the ornaments and taſteful deſigns that once diſtinguiſhed theſe premiſes, are now dilapidated; for the preſent dwelling has only the rude front of a ruſticated and decaying manſion. There appear to have been moats to a great extent around it; and upon a ſpace of waſte land, within their circle, is ſaid to have been once a religious houſe, which exiſted under the laws of a principal that reſided at Gloceſter. Robert Berkeley, Eſq. who has the

the truſt of this eſtate for his two nieces, who are minors, has lately had ſome of the buildings repaired to receive a ſmall community of refugee Engliſh nuns, whom a ferocious enemy has driven from their home in the Netherlands.

Theſe unfortunate people, as much as poſſible to familiarize their characters to thoſe whom their weary ways have led them for refuge, have put off their dreſs, and with it the more rigid exerciſes of their devotion: they do not voluntarily aſſociate with others, but are eaſy of acceſs, and poſſeſs the moſt free and polite manners.

Near the weſt border of the Lawn another road leads the traveller on the left to a ſmall village, called Upland; and at Ridmarley church another paſſes him on the ſame hand through that pariſh to the neighbouring one of

DIMOCK.

Ridmarley pariſh has no where a ſufficient number of dwellings in collected ſtations to form the appearance of a village. At Dimock there is a reſpectable ſhew of them orderly arranged near its church; the latter too is handſome, and much embelliſhed with reſpectable memorials of the mortality of ſome diſtinguiſhed perſons; and many of thoſe

" Whoſe names and years, ſpelt by th' unletter'd muſe,
" The place of fame and elegy ſupply."

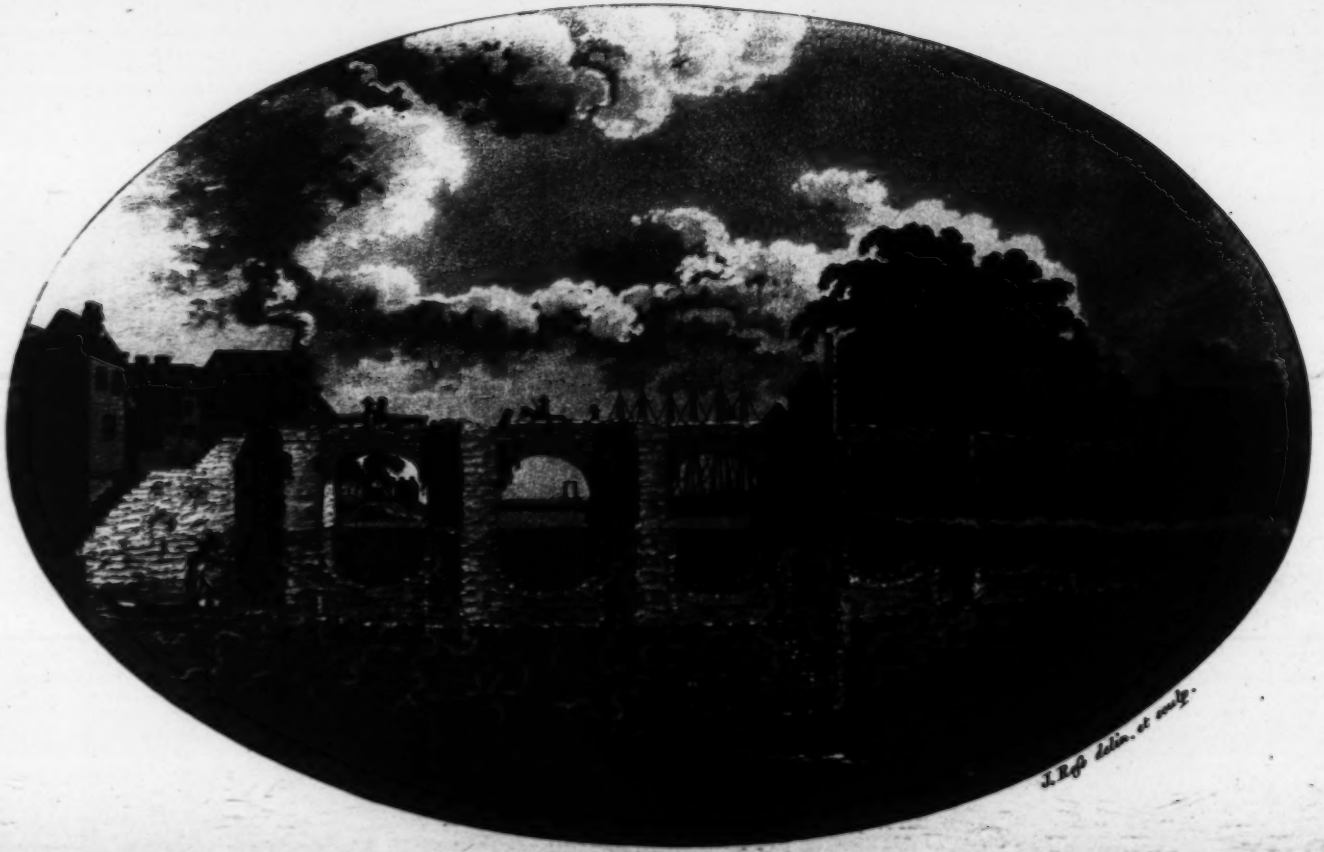
Worceſter to *Ledbury*, *Hereford*, *Abergavenny*, *Hay*, *Brecon*, &c.

WORCESTER

is a city of conſiderable ſize and much faſhion; for, being ſeated on one of the pleaſanteſt portions of land on the fertile borders of the Severn, many families of affluence and independence have been tempted to it from the adjoining countries for reſidence. It is ſituated upon the eaſtern bank of the river, twenty-ſeven miles above Gloceſter, and ſeems to have been known to the Britons by the name of Caer Guricon—to the Romans by that of Brannogenium; and, like Gloceſter, may have been a ſpot which thoſe people ſelected for fortifying themſelves during their offenſive operations againſt the numerous Britons who peopled the lands that adjoined the oppoſite banks of the river. At this place was alſo the paſs of the famous Roman way which led from their other ſtation at Alceſter, in Warwickſhire, to Kenchurch, in Herefordſhire. It was made the ſeat of a biſhop about the year 680.

Notwithſtanding its celebrated fortifications and population, it is remarked by hiſtorians as a place that, at times, ſuffered moſt particularly under the preſſure of civil feuds.—The following are the beſt authenticated records of theſe calamities.

About



Worcester Old Bridge.

About the year 1080, a body of Welchmen, headed by Roger de Montgomery, totally burnt its ſuburbs. In 1113, the ſame people almoſt wholly demoliſhed the city, damaged the cathedral, and afterwards ravaged far within the borders of England; which laſt act induced Henry the Firſt to march againſt them with ſuch a formidable army as totally deſtroyed their power in theſe parts: and in 1218, Llewelin, the laſt Prince of Wales, (according to *Rider*), being deprived of the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh barons, at this place did homage and ſwore fealty to that Prince.

It afterwards ſuffered very conſiderably from the dreadful conflicts between the houſes of York and Lancaſter: and it is highly diſtinguiſhed for the laſt effort in the cauſe of royalty againſt the victorious arms of Cromwell. But for a more particular illuſtration of this event, and other ſubjects relating to it, I refer my readers to GREEN's Quarto Edition of its Hiſtory.

WORCESTER BRIDGE.

The annexed plate repreſents the weſtern end of this elegant ſtructure, which was begun in the year 1770, and, at an enormous expence, completed in 1780.

This bridge paſſes the traveller into the townſhip of St. John, which is ſeated upon the oppoſite bank of the Severn; and though ſo

ſo nearly attached, is totally out of the juriſdiction of Worceſter. It has ſome trade within itſelf, and ſhares with the city a ſmall portion of the commerce of the Severn.

Having paſſed the new road to the entrance of St. John's—the eye of taſte will be highly gratified by a retroſpect of the city: whence the ſite of its ancient caſtle; the beautiful tabernacle-work of the tower, and the numerous pinnacles of its auguſt cathedral; St. Andrew's ſpire, which for ſymmetry and elegant execution cannot be equalled in the kingdom; the various ſteeples and cupolas; the Biſhop's palace; the Royal China Manufactory of Flight and Barr; the principal weſtern entrance of the city; the infirmary; the bridge, with the commodious wharfs, &c. form together a moſt pleaſing aſſemblage of intereſting objects, while the ſwift-flowing Severn, ſpreading her canvas to the winds, bears her traffic through the buſy ſcene.

The ſmall village of Powick is about two miles on

THE STAGE TO LEDBURY,

near which are ſome extenſive iron forges, the property of Meſſrs. Lloyds, of Birmingham; and at this place the road paſſes the river

TEME or TAME.

It is a conſiderable ſtream which has its ſource in the higheſt lands in Shropſhire, (Clun foreſt), and

Worcester.

and after paſſing ſome of the pleaſanteſt parts of that county, it takes a circuitous courſe to Tenbury and through much of Worceſterſhire, then falls into the Severn about a mile below this place. Near its riſe it is rapid and impetuous, but its latter courſe is generally placid and ſlow; and it is always decorated with a verdant border.

Near the entrance of Powick is Upper Wick, the ſeat of Thomas Bund, Eſq. This village, like other parts of the vicinity of Worceſter, has many faſhionable reſidencies. That on the right, at leaving the place, is elegant; the proprietor is W. Ruſſel, Eſq.

At Newland's Green, which is about three miles farther on this way, Capt. Creſwell has a neat dwelling. Braces Leigh, the ſeat of Thomas Netherton Parker, Eſq. is a ſhort way to the right from hence. About a mile farther, on the left, is

MADDRESFIELD,

the antiquated manſion of a long ſucceſſion of the family of Lygon. W. Lygon, Eſq. M. P. for the county of Worceſter, is the preſent poſſeſſor.

On this part of the road there are few objects intereſting to the traveller who is ſolicitous for the ruder fancies of nature. She is here completely ſubſervient to the induſtrious ruſtic's

power, by whom all her priſtine ornaments are deeply infolded within ſheets of waving glebes; and the wild woods and ſtraggling ſhrubs, with which ſhe is wont to dreſs herſelf, are here tranſmuted to profitable fruit orchards or uſeful fences to his "bounds of feed." But to compenſate fully for this ſhort ſpace of undelighting travel, the ſublime hills of Malvern, hitherto only partially ſeen at a diſtance, emerge now with infinite grandeur to the view, and challenge all our admiration.

The following lines on this univerſally pleaſing theme, are the firſt poetical eſſay of a friend; who, though eminent in other branches of the polite arts, would perhaps have never attempted that of poetry, but to aſſiſt as far as poſſible a labour which he conſiders as arduous and ſevere.

MALVERN.

Hail, bliſsful Malvern—joy of every heart
Suſceptible of tranſport—the delight
Of every eye! How often from afar
Have I beheld thy cloud-embattled brow,
With tow'ring pride, aſpire to prop the ſkies,
Like hoary Atlas! O'er the Chace below
Caſting a broad, diffeminating ſhade,
As ſinks th' Heſperian ſun. Here if the muſe,
Without preſumption, may of things compare
Earthly with heavenly,—I never read
That part of holy writ, where, wrapt in clouds
On Sinai's mount, th' Almighty deign'd awhile
To ſojourn and compoſe the Decalogue,
Man's guide to heav'n! but my mind recurs

(If

(If not too bold the grand ſimilitude)
To this umbriferous mountain. There, methinks,
High o'er the ſummit, ſelf ſuſpended, hung
The cloudy throne; from whence the favour'd Seer
Heard ſpeak the Great Eternal, and receiv'd
The tables, ſapphire over-wrought with gold,
The work of God's own finger! Yonder plain
Spread with the tents of Iſrael; whence the tribes
To meet the Prophet ran, but cou'd not meet
The glory of his face. There daſh'd to earth,
Tranſported in his wrath, he broke in twain
The gracious boon, when firſt his ſtartled eye
Beheld the golden idol. But I quit
The rapt imagination, and return
To calm reality. Not vainly ſpread,
O Malvern! is thy fame. Thy Church may claim
Pre-eminence for ſtile and ſtoried lights,
Sanctiloquent and rare! Thy lucid Baths,
Not yielding in ſalubrious qualities,
To Trent, Pyrmont or Spa, ſhall bleſs the land,
As erſt, with health and purity! The ſite
Of thy delightful Village, which e'er teems
With bland refreſhments, for an inland view
May challenge Ida, or that ken renown'd
O'er fair Campania's plains. But let me haſte
To gain th' imperial ambe, which will need
Herculean effort, and require a pauſe.——
Tis done!——here ſeated on the moſſy ſod,
A little let me breathe. Now is the time
For this enchanting view. On either hand
Behold a picture which the world beſide
Can ſcarcely parallel. Could Enna's vale,
When dreſt in all her pride, preſent a ſight
More magically ſweet? The wide Champain
Smiles with the bloom of ſpring—but over all
The blanch unfoldings of the Pear prevail,
The boaſt of Wor'ſterſhire! Now to the weſt
Turn and behold the ſcene diverſified

With hill and dale—the woods embrown'd and lawns
Of multifarious tinctures—but ſupreme
The Apple bloſſom, crimſon ſtreak'd with white,
Pomona's pride, and pride of England too!
The glowing richneſs of the vivid ſcene
Aſtounds the pow'r of words. The gothic piles
Of Wor'ſter, Glo'ſter, Hereford, advance
Their rev'rend heads—the amphitheatre,
Through all the cardinal points, is circumſcrib'd
With hills in thirteen counties. Far above
The gay horizon, lo! the rugged cliffs
Of Cambria riſe, and catch reſplendent light
From Sol's occidious beams, that faintly gleam
O'er Kingroad's glaſſy boſom. Tell me now,
Can Nature furniſh a more bliſsful ſpot
To paſs the ſummer months?—The air is pure,—
Emitting fragrance in ambroſial gales
To fan the noontide heat. And more than all—
Who ſuffers the debilitating ſcourge
Of inward bruiſes, coughs, catarrhs, and loſs
Of various pow'rs requir'd for health and joy,
Here flows your cure in convaleſcent ſtreams,
Drink and be whole! Or if for outward aid
You ſeek, from fragile incidents of frame,
Bring all your ails to theſe aperient ſprings—
Dip and be cleanſed. Hark!—the rural note
Of yonder Cuckoo more attunes the ſoul
To contemplation than ten thouſand lyres
Struck in concordant ſymphony: which brings
A fragment to my mind, compos'd, indeed,
For other ſcenes; but ſo ſublimely fraught
With moral truths, and ſo appropriate here,
The long loſt Bard that wrote them will forgive
The pious fraud, to cloſe this fond eſſay.

"And here retir'd, O let not theſe ingroſs
The whole, but give th' internal ſight its ſhare—
Contemplate him who will'd us into life!

Whoſe

Whoſe inconceivable tranſcendency
Reproaches ideot man, who fixes here
On any good that's ſhort of the ſupreme!
He's all the heav'n of intellectual beings,
In whom ev'n our ſenſations all conſiſt;
And without whom his whole creation's void:
It only can amuſe us for awhile,
That while how inſtantaneous! Let's extend
What's doing now t' a thouſand ages hence,
And how the retroſpect will then b' approv'd!

When he who num'rous ſons of Iſrael led
Through Paran deſarts tow'rds the promis'd land,
From Piſga's mount had ſeen that type of heaven;
He ſlept, being taken up to dwell with God:
So may my friend, when he hath ſafely paſs'd
Earth's hoſtile wilderneſs, be favour'd thus,
And by a call divine like him expire;
To view more glorious ſights in realms of light,
Than ever will in this dim world be ſeen."

R.

Theſe hills are ſeen at a great diſtance in the country that lies to the eaſt of them, from whence their general appearance reſembles a ſmall company of comely hills irregularly grouped on a wide champain. At every approach to them they haſtily magnify upon the ſight. At a near meaſurement their line extends from north to ſouth about nine miles. They every where vary in breadth, and are no where above three miles and an half from the level of the land on their oppoſite ſides.

At their firſt aſcent, the road paſſes a piece of common land called the Link. It is part of an ancient foreſt or chace for deer; and Gilbert de Clare,

Clare, Earl of Gloceſter, was ſome time lord thereof.

" A chace for royal deer
" Round doth beſet thee;
" That noble chace doth give
" Thy beaſts their feeding,
" Where they in ſummer live
" With little heeding."*

This chace is ſaid anciently to have contained, in Worceſterſhire, between ſeven and eight hundred acres of land, beſides large portions in the ſeveral counties of Gloceſter and Hereford.

The road has from hence a circular aſcent of about one mile and an half, where it reaches the village of Great Malvern. The firſt object here is

MALVERN CHURCH,

which reſts on the eaſt ſide of the hill, and marks the extreme height of its cultivated parts. According to Dr. *Naſh*, before the conqueſt this place was a wilderneſs thick ſet with trees; in the midſt of which ſome monks, who aſpired to greater perfection, retired from the priory of Worceſter and became hermits: their numbers ſoon increaſed; and they lived according to the order of St. Benedict. Wolſtan, Biſhop of Worceſter, dedicated their priory to the Virgin Mary: it

* Vide a poem ſaid to have been written by the pariſh clerk of Great Malvern about the year 1590.

had

I. Wright del.t et sculp.

Malvern Church

had patronage and benefactions from the king; and ſome noble and religious perſonages contributed to its revenues, which, at the diſſolution, were valued, according to *Speed*, at 375l. 0s. 6d. It was granted 36th of Henry VIII. to William Pinnocke; and, after various reverſions, the demeſnes thereof were purchaſed by James Oliver, of the city of Worceſter; the ſite of the old priory having been ſold a few years before. No part of this building remains, except an ornamented gateway, ſtanding near the weſt end of the church; which laſt magnificent ſtructure ſeems to have eſcaped the common wreck by the reſpectful interference of the pariſhioners, who purchaſed it of John Knotesford or Knottesford, for the ſum of 200l. Its length is one hundred and ſeventy-one feet; breadth, ſixty-three feet; and the height of the nave ſixty-three feet. In the tower, which is one hundred and twenty-four feet high, there is a ring of ſix good bells, and a ſet of chimes.

Its architecture partakes of the Saxon and the Gothic, and is an excellent ſpecimen of both. Its windows were completely furniſhed with ſtained glaſs, of artful deſigns and elegant execution;* and notwithſtanding there are many parts of them rendered imperfect by modern reparations, enough ſtill remains to challenge the notice and admiration of the artiſt and antiquary.

* See *Naſh's* WORCESTERSHIRE, vol. 2, p. 129.

There

There are ſome good ſpecimens of teſſelated pavement and carvings in wood, and many ſepulchral ornaments; among which, one to the memory of its ſecond prior, who died in 1135, and an effigy in black marble, repreſenting a Saxon knight, are great curioſities.

The VILLAGE *of* GREAT MALVERN

has ſeveral faſhionable houſes, and many neat ones are fitted up for the reception of ſuch as may occaſionally reſide in it for health or recreation. They are ſituated on the eaſtern aſpect of the hills, upon ſmall plains or ledges of earth that the united efforts of art and nature have caſt from the moſt mountainous, ſteril and elevated parts of them. Here the road has riſen as far upon their impending heights as is ſafe and practicable to make a carriage way; and on that elevation, in compliance with the different projections, it artfully ranges like a winding terras for near four miles upon their boſom. About the midway, in a deep receſs more than half up the aſcent of the hill, is

HOLY-WELL BATH,

of which a view is given in the annexed plate. Here are proper attendance and accommodations for bathing; and here alſo are thoſe celebrated ſprings, whoſe waters have been long held in eſtimation by the faſhionable world—being the ſummer reſort of many families of diſtinction, which is rendered very agreeable by the delightful

MALVERN BATH.

ful ſituation of the place, and its vicinity to the pleaſant city of Worceſter. The medicinal qualities of theſe waters have been a ſubject for the pens of many able chemiſts, who have analized them. An opinion ſeems to have been long eſtabliſhed that their powerful and ſalutary effects, in various diſeaſes incident to mankind, aroſe from their mineral impregnation; but Dr. Wall, in his treatiſe thereon, concludes that their principal ſprings do not contain any uncombined vitriolic acid, volatile alcali, or any metallic ſalt; but are ſlightly impregnated with fixed air, ſome common air, ſome ſelenites, and ſome unneutralized calcareous earth. Hence it is obvious that the principal virtues of theſe waters muſt be aſcribed to their extreme purity, aſſiſted by the fixed air which they contain. Their moſt reputed virtues are in glandulous obſtructions, ſcrophulous, cancerous, cutaneous and nervous diſorders.

Dr. Beal, in his treatiſe on the Malvern waters, ſays, a biſhop ſome ages ago endowed the hoſpital of Ledbury with certain revenues that were to be applied to the uſe of diſtreſſed travellers who might be paſſing to theſe ſprings for the relief of their diſorders; and the following lines, which I have ſelected from the poem laſt quoted, are ſtrong proofs of their very early renown.

" Out of this famous hill
There daily ſpringeth
A water, paſſing ſtill,
Which always bringeth

Great comfort to all them
That are diſeaſed men,
And makes them well again.

A thouſand bottles there
Were filled weekly,
And many coſtrils rare
For ſtomachs ſickly;
Some of them into Kent,
Some were to London ſent,
Others to Berwick went."

The neighbouring inn or lodging-houſe, was erected on purpoſe for the accommodation of genteel families that came to bathe and drink the waters; it is very commodious for ſojourners, particularly thoſe who prefer a mixed company. It is well ſupplied with every neceſſary by the preſent occupier, Mr. Steers. By zig-zag ways cut from hence, pedeſtrians attain the view of thoſe immenſe proſpects that occupy the moſt elevated ſummits of the hill; whence a circle of country is opened to them that contains ſeveral hundreds of ſquare miles, including the Briſtol channel, the rivers Severn, Avon and Teme; with cities, market towns, villages, manſion houſes, churches, &c. which, together with the rich landſcape in which they are emboſomed, preſents to the eye one of the ſublimeſt inland ſcenes the human mind can conceive.* The greateſt elevation is on that part which is called the Wor-

* More or leſs of the ſeveral counties of Worceſter, Stafford, Warwick, Gloceſter, Wilts, Somerſet, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Brecon, Hereford, Radnor, Salop, and Montgomery, are ſeen from hence.

ceſterſhire

ceſterſhire Beacon, immediately riſing from the village of Great Malvern: about three miles ſouth of which, upon a ſhadowy ſlope that gently falls from the eaſtern declivity of the hill, is

LITTLE MALVERN CHURCH.

This alſo poſſeſſes ſome curious ſpecimens of ſtained glaſs, carved work, and teſſelated pavement. Here was alſo a ſmall priory formed by a congregation of monks from the priory of Worceſter; who, like thoſe of Great Malvern, entered this place when a wilderneſs to perfect their characters of devotees. Their ſeminary was afterwards dedicated to St. Giles; and its revenues, at the diſſolution, were about 100l. per annum. Miſs Williams is the preſent proprietor of theſe premiſes, who has a handſome old manſion upon them: this lady, by her father's mother, Elizabeth Monington, is the laſt of the blood of Owen Glendwr. At this place the road takes a new direction amidſt mazy hills and deep precipices, at the end of which the traveller iſſues upon the oppoſite or weſtern ſide; and thence, by a few miles of eaſy and pictureſque deſcent, he reaches Ledbury. The landſcape ſeen from this ſide the hills is of other materials than that viewed from the eaſt: it is an aſſociation of little hills and leſs vallies, uniformly mantled with luxuriant groves, wild woods, and mingling orchards; the latter comprehends large tracts of unſheltered ſoils and great ſpaces of level country.

The

The HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON

is a bold projection from this beautiful ſweep of hills, and overlooks all their ſouthern and weſtern declinations; its baſe reaches the road I have deſcribed, and all its higher parts are completely intrenched. It is ſuppoſed to have been firſt formed by the Britons, at which they have made defenſive ſtands againſt the invaders of their ancient territories. The annexed plate repreſents its weſtern ſide, where the works appear to have been more regular and connected: at other parts the intrenchments extend with the winding hill half a mile in circumference. They are commonly from ſix to twelve feet deep, and might contain an army of twenty thouſand men. There is a ſmall cave at the ſouthern declivity which often gains the attention of the curious; the traditional legends telling us "'twas the abode of a hermit."

The following is copied from a manuſcript writing in the library of Jeſus College, Oxford: "Within the diſtance of a muſket-ſhot of the trenches of the camp (Herefordſhire Beacon) was found, in the year 1650, by Thomas Taylor, near Burſtner's Croſs, as he was digging a ditch round his cottage, a coronet or bracelet of gold, ſet with precious ſtones, of a ſize to be drawn over the arm or ſleeve. It was ſold to a jeweller in Lombard-Street, London, for 250l. and the jeweller

Herefordshire Beacon, Malvern Hills

jeweller ſold the ſtones, which were deeply inlaid, for 1500l." It is conjectured to have been the diadem of a Britiſh prince, who fell in battle near this place.

According to *Rowland*, "The princes of Wales wore on their bonnets, or helmets, a coronet of gold; being a broad headband, indented upwards, and ſet with precious ſtones." *Richards*, in his WELCH DICTIONARY, calls it "a torch or tyrch, a wreath, a collar, a torquis, which was worn by the nobility and great commanders among the ancient Britons."

From the village of Powick, a road alſo leads, parallel with the courſe of the Severn, to Upton; on or near which, are the pleaſant ſeats of Whitfield Stanbrook, Garlford Grange, Ridd, Blackmore Park, and Severn-end. The two laſt are the moſt notable. The family of Lechmere, of Severn-end laſt mentioned, is of much antiquity; it greatly flouriſhed about the year 1600; one of it (Nicholas) was created a Baron by Geo. I. but dying without iſſue, the title became extinct. There are many records of this family in the neighbouring church of Hanley; near which is

HANLEY CASTLE.

This Caſtle was a large ſquare building, with four towers, ſurrounded by a moat; the keep was placed in the north-weſt corner. It was the fortified poſſeſſion of the ancient lords or keepers of the Royal Foreſt before deſcribed, being ſituated, a ſhort ſpace, within the trenched boundary which Gilbert de Clare formed to encloſe his own domain; many traces of this mound are ſtill viſible upon the level chace, over many of the hills in the neighbourhood, and through much of Herefordſhire.

In the time of Hen. V. this caſtle belonged to Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick and Worceſter. He left iſſue, born here, 1424, Henry Duke of Warwick (who alſo died here, and with whom expired the name of Beauchamp) and Anne; who, upon the death of her brother Henry, carried the Beauchamp eſtates to her huſband, Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick and Saliſbury, "The ſetter up and puller down of kings."

Leland ſays, "Hamley is from Upton, a mile, in dextra ripa Sabrinæ. The caſtelle ſtandith in a parke, at the weſte parte of the towne. Syr John Savage, and his father and grandfather, lay much about Hamley. The Erles of Gloceſter were owners of this caſtelle, and lay much there. Mr. Cometon, clene defaced it yn his tyme, being keeper of it after Savage." It is now the property of Thomas Hornyhold, Eſq.

UPTON.

Upton.

UPTON.

" Upton ſtandith in ripa dextra Sabrinæ, upon a cluſter, four miles above Thevkeſbyri, and here is a bridge of wood, on Sabrina; and here is a great ſtable of the kinges, a late occupied for great horſes." *(Leland.)*

According to *Speed*, this place hath been of ſome account to the Romans; one of their legions being ſometime quartered in it: he alſo repreſents a grand convocation of Engliſh and Welch biſhops, meeting here for the celebration of Eaſter: but the Romans have not left us ſuch marks of their labour, as we can, with certainty, trace their ſteps by; nor is there a chronicle of whom this ſynod was compoſed.

It is a neat little town, upon the weſt bank of the Severn; by which river, much grain and other commodities are exported from its market to Briſtol and other parts of the coaſt. Here is a porter brewery, where they manufacture that article to a perfection nearly equal to that of London. It has ſeveral decent Inns for the accommodation of travellers. The annexed drawing comprehends its bridge over the Severn, the wharfs, church, and a diſtant proſpect of Malvern hills. The centre arch of the bridge is reckoned of later erection than the others; for when the Royaliſts were defeated at the battle of Worceſter, a party of them are ſaid to have fled

over the Severn at this place, when they ſprung this arch to prevent the purſuit of the enemy.

A ſhort way to the ſouth of Upton, near the borders of the Severn, are the handſome domains of Ham Court, the ſeat of the late John Martin, Eſq. Pull Court, Thomas Dowdeſwell, Eſq. and Forthampton, the property of the Biſhop of Ely: near the laſt mentioned place is a ferry, by which travellers from Cheltenham, Tewkeſbury, &c. are conveyed to the ſide of the Severn I am deſcribing.—I here cloſe my account of Upton and its vicinity.

About a mile from great Malvern, the paſſage from Worceſter to Ledbury is rendered much ſhorter, by a road called the Witch, that leads by a ſudden aſcent over the ridge of the hills, which are conſiderably lowered in this part by a deep hollow way; notwithſtanding which, it is too ſteep and perilous for carriages; but equeſtrian and pedeſtrian travellers commonly chuſe it.

Near where the road paſſes the ſmall village of Colwall, is the ſeat of H. Lambert, Eſq. A ſhort way farther is that of E. Bridges, Eſq. and to the right of theſe is William Cliff's, Eſq. Nearer Ledbury, various evergreens top ſome woodland heights, and diſtinguiſh the eſtates of Hope-end, where is

Seat of Sir H. Tempest Bart.

The SEAT of Sir. H. TEMPEST, Bart.

It is every way encircled with verdurous hills and deeply ſhaded vallies; ſome of the moſt beauteous parts, with a proportionate meaſure of water, are retained within the bounds of a deer-park: it has alſo a luxuriant growth of oaks, fruit trees and ſhrubs; and though the embelliſhments are not extenſive, they are improved with ſuch frugality as renders Hope-end a deſirable country reſidence.

About half a mile from Ledbury there is alſo another bye-way that leads from the poſt road laſt deſcribed, to Caſtle-Ditch, Branſhill Caſtle, &c.

CASTLE-DITCH

Is the habitation of Lord Somers. The manſion does not exhibit the grandeur that commonly graces the ſeats of Britiſh nobles; but the premiſes that attach to it are rich and extenſive.

BRANSHILL CASTLE

Poſſeſſes a part of them. It has a ſolitary ſituation amidſt ſome of the dying ſlopes of Malvern Hills: little of the building now remains; but it was formerly of a quadrangular oblong form, with round towers, double trenched, and of great ſecurity. Its erection is generally attributed to the Britons. It was once in the holding of the

the Earl of Dorſet: at a later period it was in the hands of the Crown, and was granted by Henry VI. to the great Earl Talbot. Its moats ſtill retain great bodies of water; and its other intrenchments were ſpacious, and are ſtill viſible.

Hazel and Affill camps are alſo large intrenched lines, lying but a ſhort diſtance from the laſt-mentioned caſtle; and another prominent head of Malvern Hills, beſides that before deſcribed, ſhews itſelf from hence, ſingly wreathed with the like ornament.

A tactical line of encampments has been ſometimes deſcribed to mark the whole borders of Herefordſhire next the Severn: I have found them equally numerous through other parts of the Marches, but too imperfect for a juſt account; nor can the moſt induſtrious antiquary always trace, with preciſion, the horrid violations of war on this otherwiſe happy country.

A ſhort way farther on this road, is the ſeat of Richard Cocks, Eſq. alſo the ancient manſion of Moreton Court, once the poſſeſſion of Lord Belmont.

LEDBURY.

In the time of the Conqueror, this place was given to the church by Edwin, ſon of Edrick the Saxon; the clergy having perſuaded him that he was

Ledbury Church.

was here cured of a palſy, by the interceſſion of St. Ethelbert. A collegiate church was founded here, by Biſhop Bohun, which was liberally endowed; it was incorporated by Henry IV. but was afterwards diſſolved, and the lands thereof taken to the Crown. We read of its epiſcopacy in the time of Henry I. and find Robert de Betun, Biſhop of Hereford, departed this life therein. Here was alſo an hoſpital founded by Hugh Foilet, Biſhop of the dioceſe, for the reception of poor people and travellers; and dedicated to the honour of God and St. Catherine the Virgin. He alſo richly endowed it, and much lands were given by others. The honours of its maſterſhip were ſo great, that the firſt divines were ambitious to poſſeſs it. Dr. Thornton, the Vice Chancellor of Oxford, had it in the time of James I. and it was ſometime governed by the great Dr. Hoſkins.

The town itſelf is ſmall, but compact and convenient: it reſts under ſome woody eminences, that ſhelter it from the eaſt and north.

A ſmall terras is formed, about a hundred yards above the church, upon the breaſt of Dog Hill; from whence a complete view is obtained over the whole town. Its buildings look from hence, as if neſtling within the circling foliage of capacious orchards, oak and elm groves: ſome of the latter were reared to beautify the eſtates of

of J. Skipp, W. Miles, and M. Biddulph, Eſquires: one of the repreſentatives for the county of Hereford is of the laſt-named family.

We read that Biſhop Bohun, before mentioned, procured from King Stephen the grant of a market for this town, to be held on Sundays; but by the charter of Queen Elizabeth it was properly changed to Tueſdays, on which day it is ſtill held. As the roads from Gloceſter and Worceſter to Hereford become one at this place, their thoroughfare is conſiderable. The George and the Feathers are both good Inns.

Gallow-knoll is a ſmall hill, about half a mile above Dog Hill before-deſcribed, of a very handſome form; the ſummit is attained with little labour, and it affords very intereſting proſpects of the ſurrounding country, viz. the complete range of Malvern Hills; but theſe ſo recently ſublime, here loſe that diſtinction: the general face of the country on this ſide of them, being, as before obſerved, of greater elevation than that which is near to them on the eaſt, all their lower parts are conſequently concealed from every diſtant view; their character otherwiſe ſuffers in compariſon with the diſtant Cambrian mountains, which appear ſo many ways to overlook them. Other views from hence comprehend May Hill, Dean Foreſt, Wentwood, the Monmouth, Brecon and Glamorganſhire mountains

mountains on one hand, and on the other thoſe of Radnor, Montgomery and Salop.

The nearer view is a level expanſe of country, part of which connects itſelf with the town of Ledbury; it comprehends the ſeveral pariſhes of Preſton, Branſbourgh, Dimock and Kemply, in Gloceſterſhire; Dinnington, Boſbury, Munſly, Aſperton, Tarrington, Stoke-Edith, Pickſly, Little-Marcle, Much-Marcle, Putly, Wool-Hope, Fown-Hope, Sollers-Hope and Yatton, in Herefordſhire: this laſt is a diſtrict celebrated beyond all others of the ſame ſpace, for its fruitage and arable quality. It is every where thick ſet with grain and hop-plantations; fruit-trees alſo predominate through the whole, that are productive of the beſt cyder and perry.

"Lo! on auxiliary poles, the hops
Aſcending ſpiral, rang'd in meet array:
Lo! how the arable with barley-grain
Stands thick o'erſhadow'd."

"Here to the ſight
Apples of price, and plenteous ſheaves of corn,
Oft interlac'd occur."

The parts of theſe levels neareſt Ledbury are particularly congenial to the growth of the pear-tree. At Boſbury above-named is a field called Barland Field, where the native trees ſtill grow, from which the large plantations have been ingrafted, which now produce the celebrated beverage called *Barland Perry*; and a com-

parative judgment may be formed of their proſperity, when I relate, from good authority, that they have each produced ſeven hogſheads of liquor from one year's fruit.

> "Chiefly the Boſbury, whoſe large increaſe,
> Annual, in ſumptuous banquets claims applauſe."

Much-Marcle, Little-Marcle, Putly, Tarrington, Wool-Hope, Aſperton and Dimock, are moſt particularly celebrated for their cyder. I am credibly informed that the laſt-named pariſh has produced 3000 hogſheads from one year's growth of apples.

In Putly church-yard is an antique croſs ornamented with figures of the Virgin and Child, the Crucifixion, and St. John the Evangeliſt, richly worked, and in ſuch a ſtate of preſervation as will gratify the curious in beholding.

In Boſbury church are ſeveral monuments to the family of Harford, who had a handſome manſion here.

LEDBURY to HEREFORD.

On a ſmall riſe of land to the left of this road, about a mile from Ledbury, is Wall-Hill Camp —it is an intrenched work that occupies thirty or forty acres of land; it has three entrances, one of which is called the King's Gate; and it is related in hiſtory, that very extraordinary frag-

ments

ments of antiquity have at different times been found here, ſuch as arrow heads, braſs coins, and horſe ſhoes of very uncommon form; and a few years ſince the ſervants of J. Skipp, Eſq. diſcovered under the but of an oak they were employed in felling, a caſt-iron cannon ball of nine pounds weight.

Extenſive premiſes poſſeſs the ſouthern extremity of this height, called The Vineyard, a name very frequently given to ſimilar ſituations through this and the neighbouring county of Gloceſter; and thence ariſes an opinion that the grape-vine has been heretofore cultivated in them far beyond the example of the preſent day.

The firſt handſome dwelling that is met with in this paſſage, is Mr. Vaughan's: a ſhort way farther, one appears (Mrs. Durban's) with that ſort of dreſs and character which once diſtinguiſhed the dwellings of thoſe fortunate ancients who had their agrarian portions of the rich marches of Wales.

Their manſions were generally compoſed of nearly an equal ſhare of brick and timber, ſometimes ſtone and timber; they were commonly two ſtories in height, with ſmall attics; each upper room ſtill projecting over that below; their fronts were ornamented with gable ends that ſupported their proportionate ſhare of roof; they had large tranſome windows with partitions of

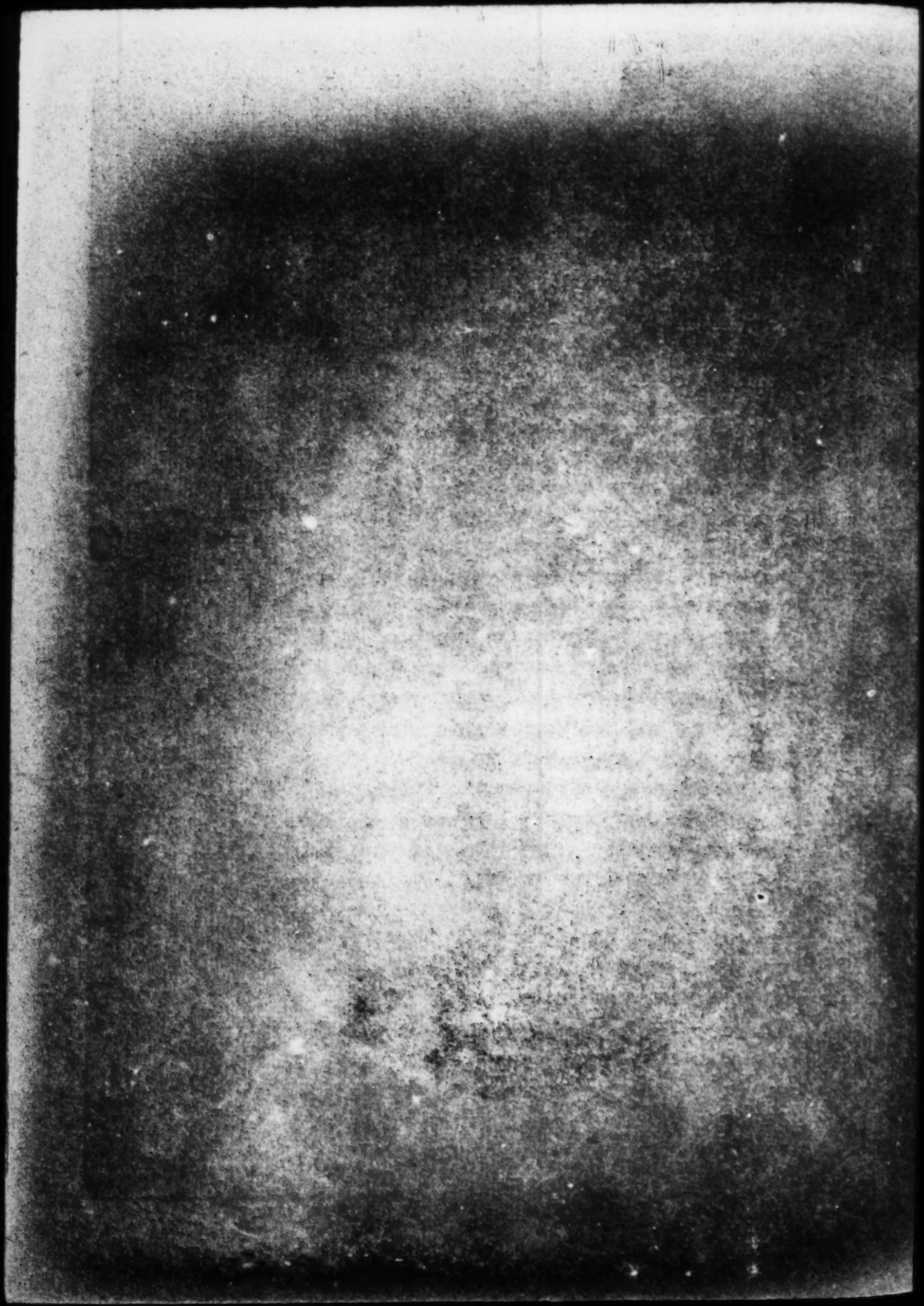
ſtone

ſtone or wood, lighted with ſmall diagonal ſquares of glaſs, on which the arms of the family were commonly painted. Where the article of water could be collected, they were encircled with deep moats, over which a draw-bridge was conſtructed; or if devoid of the latter defence, they encircled them with ſtrong embattled walls, through which was a ſpacious gateway, with a double door of firm oak, that opened to an inner court; where, in times of civil warfare, the whole houſehold ſometimes aſſembled for defending themſelves againſt the depredating foe. A ſhort way farther on this road is

STOKE.

A beauteous manſion, timely appearing to mark the architectural improvements of the latter age, under ſecure government: it is a large ſquare building; its principal front is worked after a grand deſign, in about equal portions of brick and ſtone; an extenſive park handſomely riſes to cover all the back parts of it, and there opens before it a wide expanſe of lowlands; the firſt is paſturage richly ſtocked with herds, and highly ornamented with regal oaks: the latter is gay with the local livery of the county, grain-fields and fruit-groves.

Much of the poſt road, which once offenſively intruded to ſeparate its park from the more improved parts of the premiſes, has, by a generous project of the preſent proprietor, been turned



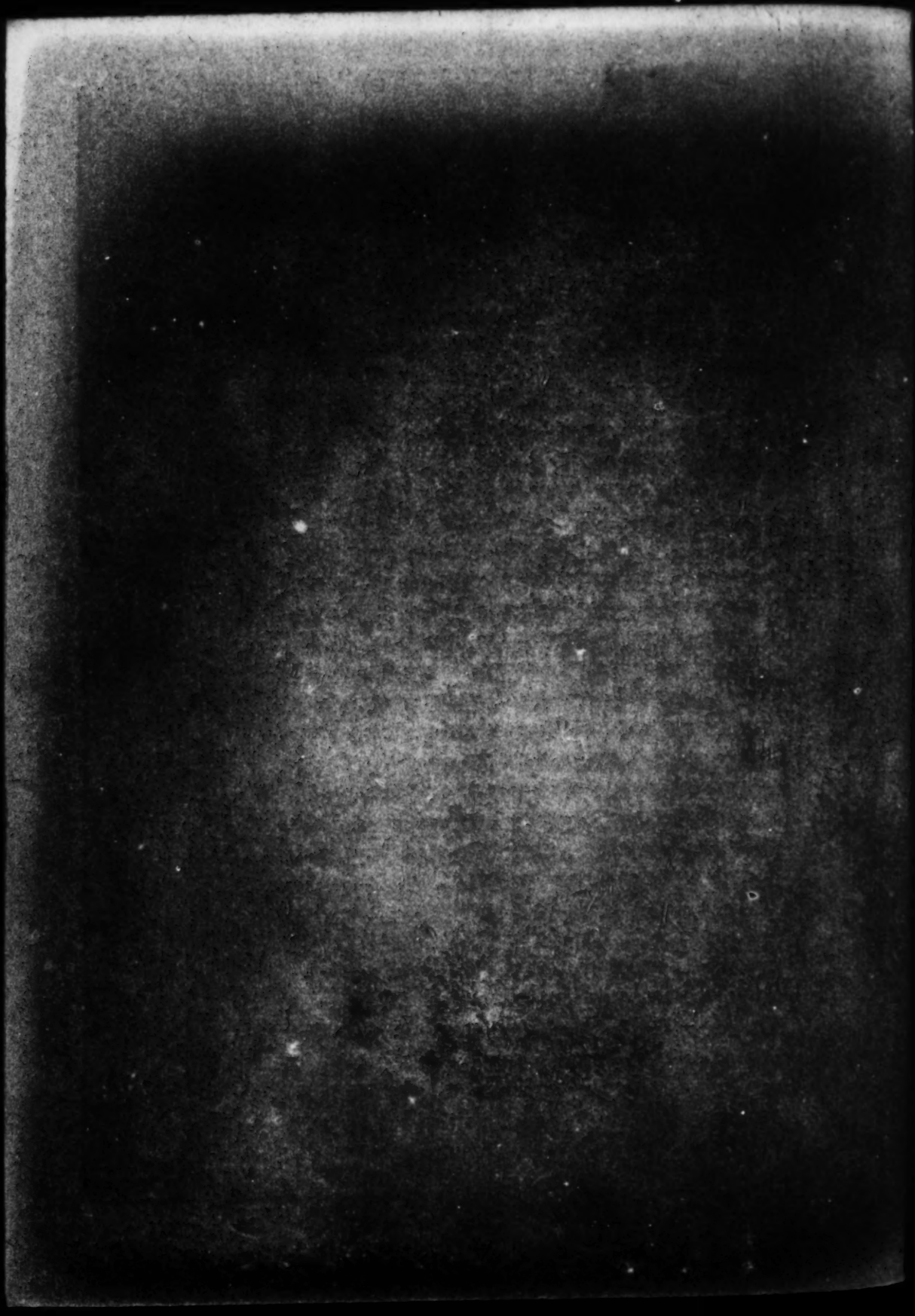
turned from thence to trace the level before the houſe; it is near half a mile ſhorter than the old one, and otherwiſe more convenient; and thus travellers are ſhewn a new picture of grandeur and pictureſque beauty: it comprehends the grand entrance to the hall, the handſome parſonage and church of Stoke-Edith, and a complete range of taſteful additions that have lately been made to the gardens and plantations. It is part of the eſtate of the Hon. Edward Foley, who has for ſeveral Seſſions been repreſentative in Parliament for the county of Worceſter.

A ſhort way from Stoke a handſome ſtone building appears to the left, recently raiſed by James Hereford, Eſq. the ſucceſſor of an ancient family of that name, whoſe antiquated manſion was nearly adjoining. Farther on the ſame hand is the ſeat of T. Walwyn, Eſq. M. P. for the city of Hereford, and deſcendant of the Walwyns of Helen hereafter deſcribed: oppoſite to the laſt is the reſidence of —— Ravenhill, Eſq.

The village of Lugwardine, which the road next paſſes, contains ſeveral neat houſes; near to which a ſtone bridge of three arches paſſes

The RIVER LUG.

This river hath its riſe in Radnorſhire; near Preſteign it receives ſeveral ſmall ſtreams that



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terſect the above county, and after tracing the northern border of the county of Hereford it paſſes Leominſter, from whence it runs with eaſy pace to croſs this road, a ſhort way from which it falls into the Wye.

" Firſt Frome with forehead clear, with Bromyard that doth glide,
" And taking Loden in, their mixed ſtreams do guide,
" To meet their Sovereigne Lug, from the Radnorian plaine
" At Preſtagn comming in, where he doth entertaine
" The Wadel——

" Lug little Oney firſt, then Arro in doth take
" At Lemſter,——"

DRAYTON.

The moſt particular ways that lead from the poſt one laſt deſcribed are as follow; from Ledbury a tolerable turnpike-road leads from the eaſtern part of that town to Dimock; another leads from it to Much Marcle and Roſs; on the left of the laſt, a ſhort way from Ledbury, is an old manſion formerly inhabited by the Eltons; a handſome monument in Ledbury church records one Ambroſe Elton and Ann his wife, of this family, who lived to ſee one hundred and twenty children and grandchildren, their immediate deſcendants.

MUCH MARCLE.

At this place has been a conſiderable fortreſs; in the additions to *Camden* it is thus deſcribed:— " Great Marclay belonged at the conqueſt to Roger de Lacy, afterwards to the Baluns, from whom

whom it came to the Crown, and was by Edward the Firſt granted to Edmund Mortimer; 22d Richard II. the laſt Roger Mortimer, Earl of Marche, died ſeiſed of it, and demiſed it to Thomas Walwayn for his life; coming again to the Crown, it was purchaſed of Queen Elizabeth by Thomas Kirle, of Walford, Eſq. who had iſſue Sir John Kirle, created a Baronet 3d Charles I. who had iſſue Francis, who died in his life time, leaving iſſue Sir John Kirle, Bart. living 1675.

"Near the church ſtood Mortimer's Caſtle, the ſite ſtill viſible; and another, perhaps more ancient, called Ellingham Caſtle, not far from the town, the ſite overgrown with wood, and called the Quarry Wood."

"The capital meſſuage (near the village) called Helion's, corruptly Helen's, belonged to William Ludlow; and in the reign of Edward III. to the Audley's, whoſe heireſs brought it to Ralph Lord Stafford, and Edmond Lord Stafford ſold it to Thomas Walwayne; 4th of Henry IV. Queen Mary, by commiſſion under the great ſeal, authoriſed Henry Earl of Arundel to confer the honor of knighthood on William Wareham and Richard Walwayn."

"Richard Walwayn, anceſtor of this family, (Edward III.) married Joan daughter and heir

of Walter Helion, of Helion here, which is now the chief ſeat of the Wâlwayn's."

The keep of the caſtle above-mentioned nearly adjoins to the church-yard; its foundations appear to have been very large, with extenſive entrenched works ſurrounding them; the parts that were evidently deſigned to reſerve waters ſtill retain in a great meaſure their early purpoſes; all portions of its walls have been long converted to other uſes; this property, with much of the adjoining territory, has latterly deſcended from Lord Kinnoul to William Money, Eſq. who has a handſome houſe near the ſpot. The houſe of Helion hath been long neglected, and in that ſtate hath paſſed to a new family. The church is of conſiderable ſize, and contains ſeveral curious monuments, among which is an antique figure of Sir Walter Helion abovementioned; it was originally fixed in Aſperton church, from which, for ſecurity, it was tranſlated to Helen's, and thence to this church: there is an alabaſter monument with a lady holding a pair of beads; it is decorated with the arms of Grandiſon and Mortimer, and is ſuppoſed to be a daughter of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and the wife of John Lord Audley; there is another in free-ſtone, without arms or inſcription, bearing the effigies of a knight and lady; the firſt is ſuppoſed to be the great Roger Mortimer, executed at the Elms in Smithfield, and which Mr. Blount ſuppoſes was brought hither from

from the Grey Friars, London; another is raiſed in memory of Sir John Kirle and his lady Sibylla, whoſe daughter was grandmother to Mr. Money before-named, from whom alſo deſcended the celebrated *Man of Roſs*.

At Marcle the turnpike-road "leaves the broad vale" to aſſay an uneven upland country, the extreme part of which is called Perry Stone Hill; and at this ſpot a diſtant view of Roſs, much of the ambient banks of the river Wye, and a diverſity of picturesque ſcenery crowds from far upon the captivated eye.

"Nor are the hills unamiable, whoſe tops
To Heaven aſpire, affording proſpect ſweet
To human ken; nor at their feet the vales
Deſcending gently, where the lowing herds
Chew verdurous paſtures; nor the yellow fields
Gaily interchang'd with rich variety;
Pleaſing as when an emerald green, enchas'd
In flamy gold, from the bright maſs acquires
A nobler hue, more delicate to ſight."

After about half a mile of travel on the poſt way between Ledbury and Hereford a turnpike-road branches from it on the right hand, leading to Boſbury, Caſtle Froome, Froome Biſhop, &c. to Bromyard; a few miles nearer Hereford there is another leads from it on the ſame hand to Cannon Froome and Stretton. Cannon Froome Court is the handſome manſion of Richard Cope Hopton, Eſq. Near Stoke Edith another

another road on the left paſſes by the ſeat of James Hereford, Eſq. to the village of Mordiford: the laſt-named is where the river Lug is loſt in the more capacious channel and ſtreams of Wye.

The village of Mordiford is croſſed by a good turnpike-road; the part which leads eaſtward reaches Hereford, its oppoſite branch paſſes Fown Hope and croſſes the Marcle road to Roſs, after which it joins that which runs from Gloceſter to Roſs. A few miles from Fown Hope is the ſpot of earth commonly called

THE MARCLE WONDER.

" Near the conflux of the Lug and the Wye, eaſtward, a hill which they call Marchly Hill, did, in the year 1575, rouſe itſelf as it were out of ſleep, and for three days together ſhoving its prodigious body forward with a horrible and roaring noiſe, and overturning every thing in its way, raiſed itſelf, to the great aſtoniſhment of the beholders, to a higher place, by that kind of earthquake I ſuppoſe which the naturaliſts call Braſmatia." *(Camden.)* Dr. *Fuller* ſays " the hill rouſed itſelf as it were out of its ſleep, or rather it might be ſaid to be in labour for three days together, ſhaking and roaring all that while, to the great terror of all that heard it or beheld it; by others it is ſaid to have carried along with it the ſheep-folds and the flocks of ſheep; it overthrew Kinnaſton Chapel, threw down

down with violence the cauſeways, trees, and houſes; it made tilled lands paſtures, and paſture lands were tilled by it; and having thus walked from ſix o'clock on the Sunday evening till two o'clock on the Monday morning, mounting up an hill of 12 fathoms, it then ſtood ſtill and moved no more."

Notwithſtanding this ſubject hath challenged the ſerious attention of ſuch eminent writers, I am inclined, from my inveſtigation of the place, to diſcredit the miraculous parts of their narrative. Judicious legends prevail among the beſt informed inhabitants through the neighbourhood, that the hill in queſtion had anciently a quarry of ſcarce and valuable ſtone within its lower baſe, which being completely worked out, its other parts, a clay ſoil on a reclined plane, were cauſed by a wet ſeaſon to ſlide in a great body for a freſh ſtay to their weight; and the ſituation ſtrictly correſponds with ſuch account of it.

HEREFORD.

" In elder days, ere yet the Roman bands
Victorious this our other world ſubdued,
A ſpacious city ſtood, with firmeſt walls
Sure mounded, and with num'rous turrets crown'd,
Aerial ſpires and citadels—the ſeat
Of Kings and Heroes reſolute in war;
Fam'd *Ariconium*, uncontroll'd and free,
Till all-ſubduing Latian arms prevailed;
Then, alas! tho' to foreign yoke ſubmiſs,

She

She undemoliſh'd ſtood, and ev'n till now
Perhaps had ſtood, of ancient Britiſh art
A pleaſing monument; not leſs admir'd
Than that from Attic or Etrurian hands
Aroſe, had not the Heav'nly powers averſe
Decreed her final doom."*

It is ſituated upon a northern border of the Wye; the courſe of this river from hence to where it influxes with the Severn is ſeventy-ſix miles; by the meaſure of the road it is only thirty-one between each place.

It was called by the ancient Britiſh poſſeſſors Trefawith, but its real ſtate under thoſe people is not diſtinctly ſeen in any view; the beſt informed hiſtorians conjecture it to have been a place where they partially ſettled or convoked about the date of the firſt invaſions of their country; and being on ſuch ground as they were moſtly inclined to fortify, flat and marſhy ſpots next the rivers, it may alſo have had that ſort of attention from them.

The Romans in their cruel warfare againſt the more harmleſs parts of human nature, found and firſt exhibited this favourite claſs of the ſpecies on the great theatre of human action; they have deſcribed them as "defenceleſs, flying to the bogs and moorlands, hiding themſelves to their heads in earth:" mankind, however humble, are gre-

* It is commonly believed that the ancient Ariconium, ſituated near this place, was thrown down by an earthquake, and that Hereford has riſen out of its ruins.

J. Baker delin.

J. Kyd sculp.

Hereford.

gregarian, and compact themſelves the more cloſely as their dangers are the moſt apparent; others therefore than the enemies of the Ambo Britons had perhaps diſcovered in them thoſe ſymptoms of wiſdom and valour which Rome ſo ſoon humbled to acknowledge; collecting, counſelling, and reſolutely defending themſelves within trenches of the earth, ſuch as their ſtrange neceſſity could form; and from ſuch a work Trefawith (or Ariconium) might have riſen.

The MAGNA BRITANNIA preſents in the following paſſages as conciſe and faithful a deſcription of the later Hereford as is collected:—

"Mr. *Camden* finding Arriconium, by *Antonine*, to be placed in theſe parts, is of opinion that Ereinuc the name of the county, Archenfield the tract adjoining, and Hereford, which he ſays the common people called Hariford, did all take their ſeveral names from it, which being deſtroyed as is reported by an earthquake, has no clear marks of a town, becauſe Hariford has been riſen out of the materials."

"The city, which is of conſiderable bigneſs, being about a mile and a half in compaſs, has a pleaſant ſituation in the midſt of a fair champain, encompaſſed with two rivers which water delicious meadows. It is ſuppoſed to have

ſprang up when the Saxon Heptarchy was in its glory, founded, as ſome write, by King Edward the Elder; to which *Camden* ſeems to aſſent, ſaying 'and indeed there is no mention of it more ancient, for the Britons called this place Trefawith, from the beech trees growing here, and Hereford, from an old way; and the Saxons Fernly, from the great growth of fearn near it.'

"One Putta was ordained the firſt biſhop, (680); we read nothing more of it till the martyrdom of Ethelbert, King of the Eaſt Angles, a prince learned, ſober, and religious, was invited to the great King of the Mercians, Offa, to marry Elfryd his daughter, a lady of great beauty; for which end Ethelbert coming with a great retinue to Offa's court, then ſeated at Sutton Willis, in this county, was murdered by King Offa, at the inſtigation of Quindreda his wife, that he might gain his kingdom; and buried at Marden, which lies north of Sutton, upon the river Lug, but afterwards removed by King Offa's order to Hereford; his death being known, he ſoon gained the reputation of a ſaint and martyr, and Milfred, a petty prince of the Mercians, built a church over his tomb and dedicated it to him, which proved a cauſe of the enriching and enlarging of the town, partly by the gifts of the Mercian prince and partly by the multitudes that came to viſit the martyr's tomb.

"This

" This city ſoon after came into the power of the Weſt Saxon Kings, as *William* of *Malmſbury* informs us; and Athelſton, the Weſt Saxon, forced the Princes of Wales to comply with thoſe terms of ſubjugation, to pay him for tribute twenty pounds weight of gold and thirty pounds weight of ſilver every year; but the Welch did not remain quiet under ſuch hard conditions, for Griffin, Prince of South Wales, aſſiſted and inſtigated by Alger an Engliſhman, Earl of Mercia, rebelled againſt Edward the Confeſſor, and having routed Earl Ralph, who was ſent againſt him about the year 1056, ſacked the city, deſtroyed the Cathedral, and carried Leofgai the biſhop captive; but Harold having quieted the rebellion, fortified it, as *Horiancenſis* informs us, with a broad and high rampire."

" When the Normans invaded this nation this city lay in ruins, which were then high and formidable, at which time it appears by Doomſday-book there were but one hundred and three men both within and without the walls; after this the Normans very much improved and enlarged it, built a very large and ſtrong caſtle by the river Wye, near the place where the cathedral had ſtood, the work (as ſome report) of Milo, or rather of William Fitz Oſbourn, firſt Earl of Hereford, who built it to ſecure this country from the incurſions of the Welch.

" In

" In the time of King Stephen we read of a caſtle here, defended by William Talbot in behalf of Maud the Empreſs againſt the King, anno 1138, but he recovered it that year.

" In Richard the Firſt's abſence, when his brother Earl John (afterwards King) began to aſpire to the crown, the keeping of this caſtle was given to Roger Bigod. When Simon Earl of Leiceſter and the diſaffected Barons took arms againſt King Henry III. they began to commit the firſt acts of hoſtility at this place, ſeizing the biſhop, Peter Equeblank, whom they plundered and impriſoned with as many of the canons as were foreigners. In the reign of that unfortunate prince King Edward II. the Queen, Prince Edward, and Barons, met in this city, and having called the great council of the realm, declared the prince (afterward King Edward III.) Protector of the realm.

" When the wars began between King Charles the Firſt and his Parliament, Sir William Waller took this city for the latter, but the King's forces recovered it again, and Sir Barnabas Scudemor was made governor. The Scotch army, which came to the aſſiſtance of the Parliament, ſat down before this city Auguſt 15, 1645, and ſummoned the governor to ſurrender, but Sir Barnabas, rejecting their ſummons with diſdain, defended it ſo well that after they had loſt

loſt abundance of their men, they retired with diſhonour; but in December after, Colonel Birch, a noted Parliament man in King Charles the Second's days, and Colonel Morgan, governor of Gloceſter, having by a ſtratagem poſſeſſed themſelves of the draw-bridge, broke into the town with a body of two thouſand foot and horſe, and after a ſhort ſkirmiſh forced the garriſon to ſubmit, and yield themſelves priſoners of war."

The city is now governed by a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and divers common-council men. The cathedral is under the government of a biſhop, a dean, two archdeacons, ſix canons, of which the dean is one, a precentor, a chancellor, a treaſurer, twenty-eight prebendaries, a cuſtos, twelve prieſt-vicars, four lay-vicars, ſeven choriſters, an organiſt, a verger, two ſextons, and a head and under-maſter of the grammar ſchool.

The latter building appears to have been often enlarged and beautified ſince its firſt erection. It once bore two ſquare towers; that over its centre of large ſize, and ornamented with a ſpire; the one over the weſt end with all the weſtern part of the building lately fell; all of which, except the tower, hath been completely rebuilt: at the ſame time they have judiciouſly relieved the great tower from the weight of its ſpire,

and ſo completely repaired the whole, as to retain therein ſuch a ſhare of dignity and beauty as ranks this church with ſome of the firſt ſpectacles of its kind in Britain.

The arches of the building are moſtly circular, ſupported by ſtrong maſſive columns, and it is greatly enriched within by numberleſs effigies of its ancient biſhops, but their faces have been much mutilated (as ſome ſuppoſe) by the Parliament ſoldiers, at their war here with the friends of Charles; at the ſame time it is ſaid to have been robbed of many braſs monuments and inſcriptions.

The chapter-houſe was a moſt ſuperb building: Mr. *Groſe* ſuppoſes it to have been built ſince the firſt re-edification of the church by Robert de Loring, 1079. It was in a ruinous ſtate before the year 1652, as appears by a manuſcript in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Clarke, Eſq. regiſter of the ſee of Hereford, entitled "A Survey of the ruinous Caſtle of Hereford, late parcel of the poſſeſſion of Charles Stewart, King of England, taken 14th of December, 1652," wherein are the following entries, viz. "All that tower ſituate in the weſt part of the caſtle, and upon the mount called the Caſtle Hill, commonly called the Keep, built with ſtone, having a rampart wall of ſtone about the ſame on the ſaid Caſtle Hill, which ſaid tower is now covered with lead taken

taken from the chapter-houſe aforeſaid, valued at 25l."—There is attached to the church, a library, a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, a vicar's college, venerable cloiſters, and biſhop's palace: moſt of which buildings are advantageouſly ſituated upon the border of the river Wye, at which the labour of near twenty generations has amaſſed as much foreign materials as form an agreeable eminence. The beautiful croſs, or ſtone pulpit, that appears in the annexed engraving, is ſuppoſed anciently to have been ſurrounded with cloiſters, where a large concourſe of people might, under cover, attend the ſermons of the friars who commonly preached to the multitude from theſe kinds of croſſes. All portions of the adjoining priory are demoliſhed, except thoſe appearing in the ſame plate.—A new county gaol hath lately been erected upon the plan adviſed by *Howard*. There is an handſome infirmary; and numberleſs other charitable eſtabliſhments ornament and honour this city. The inhabitants are richly ſerved with proviſions, the growth of their own county: coals and other merchandize are brought to them by the navigation of the river Wye. There is a great meeting at its markets between the Engliſh and Welch dealers for cattle, ſheep, and other productions of their different countries, and it has elegant Inns, to which coaches paſs three times a week from Worceſter and Gloceſter.

The principal earth-works of its ancient caſtle were on an edge of the river Wye, eaſtward of the town, and have been judiciouſly converted into a public pleaſure walk.

HEREFORD to ABERGAVENNY, &c.

This road is entered after paſſing an ancient ſtone bridge of ſix arches, which croſſes the river Wye ſouthward; the view of the town from hence (as from many others in its vicinity) comprehends ſome portions of its celtic fences. *Leland* ſays, "The walls and gates of Hereford where right well mantain'd by the burgeſſes."

After travelling about a mile on this road, the paſſenger has a view of ſome handſome farm buildings, raiſed as a mark to the genteel premiſes of Dr. Mathews; the dwelling-houſe is ſituated upon a border of the river Wye, lying a ſhort way from it on the right hand, and is executed in ſtone, after a plan of *Wyat*'s. After travelling a few miles farther, he obſerves the Black Mountain arrange itſelf, barrier like, againſt the weſtern parts of the county, as thoſe of Malvern have been recently ſeen preſenting themſelves againſt the eaſt.—"They heave their huge ridges among the clouds, and look like the barriers of kingdoms, or the boundaries of nature."

A round-

A round-headed mountain that from hence appears adjoining the Black Mountain, is called the Sugar Loaf; its elevation is 2000 feet from the neighbouring river Uſk, and thoſe who are attentive to eſtimate theſe ſeveral heights, will accord with me in opinion, that the common altitude of the Hatterill Hills, or Black Mountain, cannot be leſs than 1800 feet; they extend about twenty miles from a ſouth-eaſt to about a north-weſt direction, and are ſingularized by the regularity of their forms and ſhapes.

Much of the country that is ſeen from the firſt part of this paſſage upon the left of the road is called "Archinfield or Harechinfield, a great Lordſhip longging to the Erle of Shrewiſbiry, and lieth betwyxt Monemuth and Herford, about a 2 miles from eche of them on the one ſide Alaitar vaga flu." (*Leland.*)

About the year 715 this part of the country appears to have been miſerably harraſſed and diſtreſſed by the Danes; it has been commonly deſcribed as greatly abounding in corn and wood, and the men of Archinfield are celebrated by hiſtorians for their bravery and ſkill in archery; in that profeſſion they had certain privileges above other ſubjects of the marches, one of which was, when the King's army ſhould march into the field againſt the enemy, the men of Archinfield ſhould compoſe the van-guard, and in their return homewards, the rear-guard.

During

During moſt of the paſſage the hills of Saddle-bow and Garway incline upon the ſight from the ſouth; other ways the country ſhares a large diverſity of ſmaller hills and irregular vallies. The higheſt of theſe are partly covered with numerous ſucceſſions of coppice wood, others are moſtly arable lands, and within the vallies are partitions of the richeſt meadow and paſturage.

WORMBRIDGE

Is about nine miles on this road; a ſmall village, but has ſome fame in being the birth-place of the literary Dr. Parry, Biſhop of Worceſter. The families of Shiffnal, of Patſhill, and Edward Boulton Clive, Eſq. have reſidences near this part of the paſſage.

Near Pontrilas Bridge, the waters of Dore river, and thoſe of Worm and Dulas, become one ſtream; a ſhort way below it each are loſt in the river Mynow or Monow; under this laſt name they travel together into the Wye at Monmouth.

Near the Graig turnpike the road croſſes an elevated ſpot, from whence are beheld large and beautiful proſpects over parts of the counties of Hereford, Brecon, Salop, &c. from hence alſo an oblique view of the Black Mountain ſhews it largely multiplying with ſkreens that are projecting from its eaſt ſide: ſouthward the eye ranges a more level expanſe of country, on which

which White Caſtle, before named, is a ſtriking object: after deſcending from hence, is

LANVIHANGLE COURT,

An old manſion of the Earl of Oxford's, who is the poſſeſſor of great territory near it. The remainder of this ſtage abounds with as beautiful portions of landſcape as are to be conceived; at every ſtep a beauteous detail of mountains, hills, woods, glens, and vallies approach the ſight, in other forms than thoſe we are paſſing; over which the Sugar Loaf and Skirrid Fawr mountains preſerve their ſublime pre-eminence; and ſeveral reſidences for people of faſhion are in the parts that are croſſed near Abergavenny.

There are ſeveral bye roads to be noticed which lead into the country contiguous to the one laſt deſcribed; the firſt of them paſſes near the ſouth border of the river Wye to the following dignified manſions:

ROTHERWAS.

The principal founder of this was Sir Roger Bodenham, to which various additions have been made by his ſeveral ſucceſſors, among whom is Charles Bodenham, Eſq. its preſent poſſeſſor.

HOLM LACEY

Is the primary ſeat of the great family of the Scudamores; this family appears to have come to this kingdom with William the Conqueror.

It

It is recorded to have been a family of the greateſt reputation, many of whom enjoyed great offices and emoluments under different governments: one of it married a daughter and co-heir of Owen Glendwr; another ſucceſſor was created by King Charles the Firſt, Baron Dromore and Viſcount Scudamore, of Sligo in Ireland. The laſt of this branch was Miſs Fitzroy, now Ducheſs of Norfolk, unto which noble family it is now a poſſeſſion.

At this place was an abbey of the promonſtention order, founded, as is ſuppoſed, about Henry III. In the lady chapel adjoining to the north iſle of the church of Holm is a row of the oldeſt ſort of cathedral ſtalls, which gives a conjecture that there was a chantry of prieſts here.

The heights about the river Wye, near this place, are romantically pictureſque, many of which are deeply indented with ancient entrenchments; one that adjoins Stoke Park is called Ethelbert's Camp, ſuppoſed to have been founded by that ancient chief.

Another road paſſes nearly in a ſouth direction from Hereford to

ROSS.

Near the firſt part, Dyneder, an encamped hill, appears conſpicuouſly a ſhort way to the left; it

it has ſometime been called Oyſter Hill, a Roman camp ſo named after Oſtorias the Roman General, whoſe army is ſaid to have been encamped here: other parts of the country this way, ſwell into conſiderable heights, of which Acconbury ſeems principal; it has an oblong form, and its brows are alſo marked with entrenched lines; the road croſſes the foot of its weſtern ſide, at which the traveller is elevated to great enjoyment of proſpects. The parts of it weſtward are a richly-ſet champaign, over which the mountains of Monmouth and Brecon greatly ſhew themſelves. At that part of a ſummer's day when the ſun has declined from ſhining on their eaſtern ſides, and yet ſpreads its broad rays over the nearer vallies, this part of the proſpect is inimitable. According to hiſtory there was once a nunnery at Acconbury, built by Margery Delacy, of which Johanna Scudamore was the laſt prioreſs.

HAREWOOD

Is a well-improved manſion, the reſidence of the ancient family of Hoſkins. Near this was the noted foreſt of Harewood, where Ethelbert, the miniſter of King Edgar, is ſaid to have had a caſtle, and where, according to *Rapin*, the fall of Ethelwold was accompliſhed, with thoſe relative tranſactions from which *Maſon* compiled his dramatic poem of Elfrida. A convent is alſo ſaid to have been raiſed here by that lady, over the ſpot where her huſband was ſlain: here is alſo ſaid to

have been a large ſeminary for uſeful learning, over which the reverend and dignified Dubritious preſided—Sir Hungerford Hoſkins, Bart. is the proprietor of theſe premiſes.

PENGETHLY

Is a ſhort way farther, adjoining the ſame road, the poſſeſſion of Thomas Powel Symonds, Eſq. it is near the brow of a broad hill which runs half a mile from hence eaſtward to the borders of the river Wye; and upon a ſteep end thereof overlooking much of the courſe of that river and the country more eaſtward, is

C R A D O C,

Alſo the property of the laſt named gentleman, eſteemed for being the reſidence of the Britiſh Prince Caradoc, a valiant opponent to the invading Romans, and Sovereign of certain territories lying between the rivers Wye and Severn, (commonly called the fat or ſtrong arm Prince) —it is otherwiſe noted as one of the reſidences of the Lord Scudamore, before named. Many decaying embelliſhments are upon the premiſes, examples of its early grandeur; and it may be agreeable information, that this uſual ornament to the neighbourhood is ſoon to be properly repaired for a dwelling to the proprietor.

Other borders of the river Wye lying like this upon its courſe between Hereford and Roſs, are embelliſhed

embelliſhed with commodious reſidences, ancient and modern; the moſt conſpicuous of which are Aramſtone, Sufton, Carthage, Fawlycourt, and Hingeſton.

In the above deſcribed way from Hereford to Roſs, after four miles travel from Hereford, another road branches from it, which is the direct one from

HEREFORD to MONMOUTH.

Bringwin and the Mead are ſeen at entering this, the laſt-named a handſome manſion, late the reſidence of Sir Richard Symonds, Bart. Lyſton and Treago are others. Treago is a large, firmly-conſtructed, fortified manſion, for many centuries the poſſeſſion of the family of the Minus's.

In this way the little brook called the Gamber ſhews its ſource; it is called the Gamber Head, and from hence it emerges into a conſiderable ſtream from countleſs bubbles in a bed of ſand. It has but a ſhort way to run under the above name before it is loſt in the brook Garrow, which the ſame road hereafter croſſes, and thus paſſes to the river Mynow.

PEMBRIDGE CASTLE

Is about half a mile on the right of the road; intrenchments ſurround this building; its outer walls and towers are perfect; many of its inner

rooms

rooms are in repair as a dwelling to the farmer of the eſtates attached to it; and within the attic buildings is a large chapel, ſometimes uſed by thoſe of the neighbourhood who profeſs the catholic religion.

The next road that challenges notice, branches from the way to Abergavenny, about two miles from Hereford, and paſſes

MADLY and TIBERTON unto PETERCHURCH.

Near the firſt part of this way is Cagebrook, the ſeat of J. Green, Eſq.

EATON BISHOP,

So called becauſe its manor is the Biſhop of Hereford's. Near the pariſh church of Eaton is an ancient dwelling, called Green Court, formerly the reſidence of a family named Snead: Richard Snead, Eſq. of this family, was a conſiderable ſufferer on account of his attachment to Kings Charles the Firſt and Second, the latter of which Princes, during his exile, intruſted him with the conveyance of letters of high importance to his friends in England, which he was accuſtomed to conceal in the heels of his boots; but the ſecret being at length diſcovered, he was impriſoned, and would have undergone a capital puniſhment, had not Oliver Cromwell died in a critical juncture of time. Samuel Cox, Eſq. a deſcendant of his daughter, is the preſent poſſeſſor.

ſeſſor. Cardinal Eaton, to whom Urban the 8th gave the Roman purple, is ſuppoſed alſo to be a native of this place.

EATON CAMP

Is on a ridge of land looking over a bend of the river Wye that inclines to the eaſtern ſide of the above-named pariſh; and it is near where the ſtream of that river is uncommonly ſhallow that the ancient Roman way is ſuppoſed to have paſſed from their city Ariconium to that of Bleſtium hereafter deſcribed.

TIBERTON.

Here is an elegant manſion lately poſſeſſed by a worthy relative of the ancient and noble family of Bridges, whoſe eſtates were once very extenſive in theſe Marches; Mrs. Bridges is the preſent poſſeſſor.

Bacho Hill, Stockly Hill, King Arthur's Table, and Arthur's Stone Mount, are portions of high lands which form a chain to divide thoſe near my laſt thoroughfare from the more weſtern parts of Herefordſhire; theſe within the latter diviſion undulate with leſs vehemence, whilſt every ſwell in them ſeems divided by ſome rivulet or ſtream; among theſe are Mynow, Dore, Dulas, Olean, and Trevel-Brook: this diſtrict is alſo ornamented by ſeveral noted and extenſive antiquities.

The ſmall village of Peterchurch is met with immediately after the deſcenſion from Stock Hill above-named, and about two miles to the right of it is

SNOWDLE or SNODHILL CASTLE.

The principal remains of this are faithfully delineated in the engraved view. It has been recorded as the Barony of Robert Chandos, and was probably the habitation of the noble family of that name. It had evidently an arrangement of apartments for every domeſtic uſe, and on the weſt of it appears to have been a large park for deer. At Dorſton, which is only a mile from hence, a ſimilar antiquity alſo exiſted; both are near the ſource of the river Dore: this ſtream hath nearly a ſouth-eaſt direction from hence, through what is called the Golden Valley, to

DORE ABBEY,

An ancient ſeminary of religious learning, and is ſaid to have been firſt founded by Robert Ewis, in the time of King Stephen; others ſay, that King Harold had a baſtard named Harold, and that this baſtard had iſſue Robert, the founder of Dore Abbey. King John, in the 17th of his reign, granted to the church of Dore and to the Ciſtercian order there, ſerving God, large rights of lands, and being thus provided they began to build a ſumptuous church; it had alſo various

other

Longtown Castle.

other gifts, which were confirmed by the ſame King. Its founder, and many dignified perſons, laity and clergy, were buried in it; but it eſcaped not the deſtructive vengeance of Harry the 8th, who levelled it, with countleſs numbers of equal rank, into a deſolate waſte.

" For oft o'er graves the ſhepherd tends his herd,
" And points where Saints and Martyrs lie interr'd."

In 1632, Lord Viſcount Scudamore, to whoſe family eſtate it has ſince been attached, reſtored the church to a ſacred uſe, re-built the roof and tower, and founded and liberally endowed the rectory.

HAROLD EWIS

Is a ſhort way from the latter, at which was a ſtrong military ſtation: it is near the loweſt ſtream of the river Dulas. It has by ſome been called Map Harold. At the conqueſt it was the property and reſidence of one Alured, of Marlebury; after which, being poſſeſſed by one Harold, it took from him its preſent name. It was next the property of Lord Trigos, and next the Grandiſons; of which laſt family was a Biſhop of Exeter.

LONG TOWN,

A place of the greateſt note; for it is univerſally allowed by antiquarians to be the ancient Roman

ſtation of Bleſtium. It was called by the Britons, Caſtle-Bean, or Old Caſtle, and by ſome, Old Town; which has induced thoſe who have not perſonally examined the ſubject, to fix it at the pariſh of Old Caſtle, two miles from hence. It is ſituated near the early courſe of the river Mynow, nearly oppoſite the middle range of the Black Mountain, and near its eaſtern ſide. Here remains a tower of ſtone of extreme age, reclining a ſhort way over its baſe; its form is nearly circular, the diametrical line of which, within, is about ten yards; ſome of the fractured parts of the walls are near three yards thick; its height is from twenty to thirty yards: a few of its wall fences and a gateway are all that remain of its ſtone work. Its earth works were evidently raiſed with the greateſt labour. Some other ſmall relics belonging to its primary poſſeſſors have at times been diſcovered, but not any thing valuable from them is preſerved.

After mentioning a ſeat within the above deſcribed diſtrict of the ancient family of Scudamore, and another that was the ancient one of the Cecil's, anceſtors of William Cecil, Baron Burghly, High Treaſurer of England, and the noble family of Burghly, his ſucceſſors, I find no manſions worthy of farther notice.

At a more weſtern part of the road from Hereford to Abergavenny than that where I laſt divided

divided from it, a way leads nearly parallel with the one juſt deſcribed, paſſing Kinſtone and Witfield; the latter a handſome modern building, the reſidence of Lady C. Stanhope; and about eight miles from Hereford ſome imperfect portions of the wall and towers of

KILPECK CASTLE

Appear to the left, at the north end of Archinfield. It is deſcribed as anciently the ſeat of the Kilpeck's, a noble family, which is reported to have held the honours of champions to the Kings of England. Robert Wollerond reſided in it in the time of Edward I. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was the property of the Earl of Ormond. It is now in the eſtates of Sir Richard Symonds, Bart. and in this neighbourhood a manſion lately exiſted, the reſidence of the ancient family of Devereux, from whom the Earls of that name deſcended, and of which was the heroic Earl of Eſſex, the unhappy favourite of Queen Elizabeth.

About a mile below Pontrilas, within a ſmall return from that valley which emboſoms the river Mynow, is

KENTCHURCH,

Near ſeven centuries poſſeſſed by a family of the Scudamores; the manſion and offices thereto attached are of immenſe extent, the architecture

tecture of which perhaps partakes of the faſhion of all thoſe ages; its parks, pleaſure grounds, and encircling hills, are alſo big with romantic ſplendour, fitting the famed genius of that place where the ever memorable *John of Kent* diſplayed his myſtic gambols. The ruſtic mythologiſts of the country aſſure us there is ſcarce a corner in it that has not ſomehow witneſſed his wonder-working powers. The worthy poſſeſſors of Kent-church too, indulge this harmleſs zeal for their fancied predeceſſor, by preſerving a portrait, the *counterfeit preſentment* of this memorable man, and other remarkable antique appendages of *his real dreſs*. The caſtles of

GROSMOND, SKENFRITH, and WHITE CASTLE,

Are alſo proper to be noticed here; they were formerly the poſſeſſions of Hubert de Burgh, Juſticiary of England, but were afterwards given by him to King Henry III. as *Camden* expreſſes it, "to appeaſe the ſtorm of court envy," levelled againſt him for having joined that King's enemies in wars upon the Marches of Wales.

Hiſtory repreſents the conduct of Henry and his miniſters to have driven many Engliſh barons to deſert him: theſe, to avoid the threatened danger, retired into Wales, and entered into a firm league with Llewelin. Alarmed at a revolt rendered thus formidable, the King convened his military tenants to meet him at Gloceſter.

In

In the mean time the confederates laid deſolate the Marches, carrying away the cattle and other proviſions. Henry marched far into the enemy's country, but finding it laid waſte, and fearing leſt his army might ſuffer for want of proviſions, he made a retreat to the caſtle of Groſmond; and while the Engliſh army lay there encamped in the open field, they were attacked in the night, ſubdued, and driven within the walls thereof for ſafety. This victory was principally directed by Lord Pembroke; but he appears not to have purſued theſe advantages ſo dangerous to the King, but out of reſpect and duty to his ſovereign, then confined within the caſtle, he ceaſed hoſtilities, and retired before break of day to a ſecure ſituation, enriched with the ſpoils of the Engliſh camp. The King himſelf, amazed, aſhamed and confounded at this ſudden and diſgraceful blow, having firſt reinforced with foreign ſoldiers all his caſtles upon the Engliſh confines, retreated to Gloceſter; in which city he paſſed the Chriſtmas holidays, in hopes that his preſence upon the borders might be a means of keeping the malcontents in awe.

The village and caſtle of Groſmond have poſſeſſion of a cultivated eminence near the courſe of the river Mynow; the firſt is of ſmall conſideration; the latter ſhews itſelf to be as complete a work of defence as any of its ſize exiſting: there

there was an inner court of thirty feet in length and twenty wide, with ſtately apartments, turrets, and ſtrong towers, and it was firmly belted round with a thick wall which roſe out of a deep moat that encircled the whole: its entrance was by a draw-bridge between the ſouth and eaſt ſides.

Skenfrith Caſtle is upon the borders of Mynow about three miles below the latter named; and to which a ſmall village of its name alſo attaches itſelf. It ſeems to have been of greater extent than that of Groſmond, but leſs commodious and perfect.

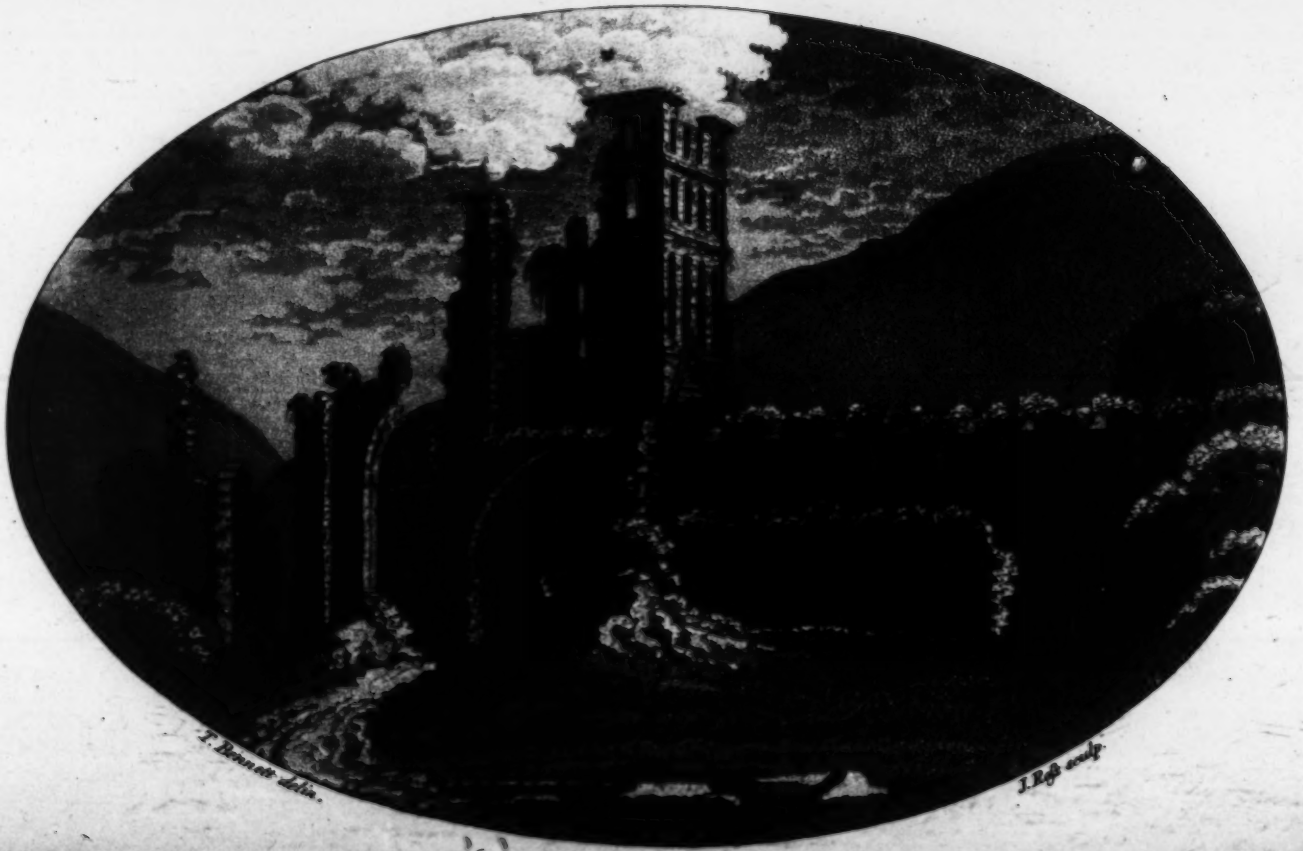
White Caſtle, which I have before had occaſion to mention, is a moſt ſtupendous building a few miles to the weſt of the courſe of Mynow; the appearance of which with its exact proportions are in the incloſed engraving.

The exterior parts of ſeveral of the largeſt hills which appear in our paſſage through this country, are alſo marked with extenſive military labours and other examples of the dreadful rage and contention that once pervaded it.

On the latter part of the Abergavenny road a way paſſes from it through the pariſh of Comiay, amidſt a vaſt abyſs of mountains, to

LAN-

WHITE CASTLE.



Lanthony Abbey.

LANTONI or LANTHONY ABBEY.

The beſt and earlieſt accounts of this are ſelected from the Additions to *Camden*:—"In the deep vales of Ewias, which is about an arrow's flight over, and ſurrounded on every ſide by a circle of mountains whoſe ſummits pierce the clouds, ſtands the church of St. John the Baptiſt, roofed with lead and built of hewn ſtones; a ſpot calculated for the purpoſes of real religion, and moſt adapted for the canonical diſcipline of all the religious houſes in the iſland of Great Britain."

"The rains produced here from the mountains are frequent, the winds violent, and the fogs in winter time almoſt continual: yet, thick as the air is, the temperament is ſo mild and healthy that diſorders are very uncommon. The monks ſitting here in their cloyſters, when they put out their heads for freſh air, which ever way they turn their eyes over the lofty roofs of their cells, behold the tops of the mountains as they were reaching to heaven, and covered with deer, of which here are plenty feeding on the ſummits: the ſun is ſeen here in fair weather between the firſt and third hours of the day juſt above the tops of the hills."

"This abby was firſt founded 1103, by Eviſtus a prieſt, and William a ſoldier, whoſe reluc-

tance to be enriched by the liberality of their lord and patron Henry de Lacy, ſerved only to procure them greater benefactions: at firſt the two Hermits would accept no more than was ſufficient to build them a ſmall church in 1108; but were at laſt perſuaded to form a convent, and they choſe the order of the canons regular of St. Auſtin."

Report drew hither Roger, biſhop of Saliſbury, who, in reporting to the king his account of it, concluded with theſe terms: "To finiſh my ſtory, the whole revenue of the crown and ſtate would not be ſufficient to build the cloiſters only," then explained this paradoxical expreſſion by ſaying, "he meant the encloſure of hills defending it on every ſide. It was valued at the diſſolution at near one hundred pounds per annum, and remains now a moſt ſuperb ruin and on an immenſe ſcale, where

"Many rapt hours might meditation paſs,
Slow moving 'twixt the pillars of the pile."

HEREFORD to HAY, BRECON, &c.

Much of the above paſſage alſo appertains to a way that is choſen by the ſpeculative traveller, who is aſſiduous to reap benefits in his paſſage. From the firſt named place to the faſhionable ſummer reſort of Aberyſtwith, it is only five miles further in length than the road which leads more northward by Kington, &c. and he is guided

Lanthony Abbey

guided by it to a ſucceſſion of natural and improved ſubjects of agreeable contemplation; but in a ſmall meaſure attainable in the ſame diſtance through the latter paſſage.

The entrance to this tour is made near the north extremity of the city of Hereford. The firſt notable object is upon a ſmall portion of common land called King's Acre. It is a neat and perfect ſample of architecture, by the ancients called White Croſs; it has an hexagonal form, and bears ſix ſhields; a flight of ſtone ſteps aſcend upon each ſide of it: it was erected by Biſhop Charleton on occaſion of a plague in Hereford, and when the markets of that city were held here. At Archinfield Houſe in this way, there is a periodical meeting of the nobility and gentry of this county for emulation in archery. It hath for ſome time been one of the moſt reſpectable of its nature, perhaps as far out-rivalling others in beauty and faſhion as their anceſtors were unrivalled in the ſkill they practiſed. The tranſlucid ſtream of the river Wye that partially forces itſelf upon the ſight through this paſſage, the vaſt intrinſic vallies, and the bold projecting hills which at different diſtances encloſe them, afford ample ſcope for the revellings of an excurſive fancy. The ſubjects for more preciſe attention are Lower Eaton; the Rev. Mr. Phillips's, New Wear; W. Pary, Eſq. the ſeat of Col. Cotterel, and Latton Court. Near unto the

the laſt named place this road has a ſouth branch that paſſes the river Wye at Lugwardine, hereafter deſcribed; but the more diſtant way is by the village of Witney, (at which the road croſſes Wye). A ſhort way further the proximate levels of that river become much narrower than thoſe in its latter courſe, and their terminating heights are enriched with the moſt commodious proſpects of beauty and grandeur. Two miles from the town of Hay, at the village of

CLIFFORD,

ſome remains of the caſtle appear overhanging the adjoining river,

——"Oft frighted with the ſound
Of fragments tumbling from the towers on high."

It is deſcribed to have been firſt built upon a waſte by William Fitz Oſbourn, the firſt Earl of Hereford. Ralph de Todeny afterwards held it; after him Walter the ſon of Richard Pant, a Norman, whoſe ſurname was Clifford, and from whom the noble family of Clifford afterwards deſcended. Here the beautiful and unfortunate Roſamond, miſtreſs to Hen. II. is ſaid to have been born, her father, Lord Clifford, (ſuppoſed to be the above Walter,) having great poſſeſſions hereabout.

In King Edward the Firſt's reign, John Gifford attained it by marrying the heireſs of a Walter Clifford

Clifford, a ſucceſſor of the above. Lord Clifford of the ſame family, but of a collateral branch that was created in 1672, took his name and title from this place.

By BREDWARDINE to the HAY.

Bredwardine bridge, which paſſes the river Wye, is a neat building of brick, and it has rendered honour to its architect by ſupporting itſelf againſt the unexampled high flood of February, 1795, with leſs injury than all the other (ſtone) bridges that croſs the ſame river, whilſt thoſe of Whitney, Hay, and Glaſbury, were totally deſtroyed by it. Bredwardine caſtle poſſeſſed a ſmall extenſion from the weſt border of the river near this paſſage; the only marks that remain of it are earthen tracks which have accumulated from its ruin or riſen from its foundation: it is deſcribed to have been firſt erected by a family of the name of Bradwardine, from whom deſcended an Archbiſhop of Canterbury that in the time of Edward III. was entitled (on account of his great learning) *Doctor Profundo*, or the *Profound Doctor*. It is now in the premiſes of Sir George Cornwall, Bart. of

MOCCAS,

An elegant modern manſion upon the ſame border of the river Wye at a farther part of its paſſage, and where a ſpacious level of land ſpreads

from it toward the weſt, much of which with ſome of the heights near it are made into a rich park. There are alſo minute improvements upon thoſe lands more immediately attached to the dwelling, and on the interpoſing banks of the river, that are highly taſteful and ornamental.

THE MOOR.

In this way is the eſtate of Thomas Stallard Pennoyre, Eſq. Within theſe domains ſome verdant heights that are left of the road are ſuſtaining more valuable plantations of oak timber than are commonly met with; and by way of ſome ſpacious avenues that interſect them the traveller is guided to a very commanding ſurvey of the adjacent country. It is at a very eminent entrenched ſpace that is called Mouſe caſtle.

The little river Dulas is croſſed at entering the town of Hay, the waters of which have the conſequence of dividing ſome of the county of Hereford from that of Brecon.

HAY.

This town diſplayeth great character of antiquity, and hath been often adjudged a Roman ſtation: it was fortified againſt King John by Llewelyn and thoſe Engliſh barons who renounced their allegiance to that King, and who in the year 1215 poſſeſſed all the ſtrong poſts in theſe

theſe parts. In 1216, in an expedition which that King made hither againſt them, he took and deſtroyed it, after which it was again fortified for the King, and at another reverſe of fortune it was taken and deſtroyed by Llewelyn. *Leland* deſcribes it with three gates and a poſtern; very ſmall parts of theſe or its other out-fences now remain, but there is much of its ancient citadel or caſtle, poſſeſſing an eminent ſpace of land that is near the centre of the place, and which is in the premiſes of —— Wellington, Eſq. whoſe manſion being made to join thereto, completes the beſt ornament to the town. Elias Walwyn (hereafter named) who fought with the Engliſh at the battle of Builth was a reſident of this place; at another period it was the property of the Duke of Buckingham; at another Lord Stafford's. It has ſome large fairs for Welch cattle, &c. but its weekly markets are latterly diminiſhed to a ſmall conſideration. The Lion and Swan are decent inns.

Although there is much water in the ſtream of the Wye reaching many miles above this town, its ſolidity is too much broken to be of farther uſe in navigation: it is ſometime ſpread from its uſual depth upon reſtleſs beds of ſand or pebbles; at other places it is obſtructed by firm ſtratas that project againſt it from the adjoining banks; other ways it is diſtorted by maſſive por-

tions launched upon it from the natural workings of adjacent mines.

Near the ruins of a handſome ſtone bridge which recently paſſed that part of the river next the town, a temporary one hath been juſt finiſhed which paſſes the traveller to ſome bye roads branching northward and weſtward from thence to reach Clirow, Pain's caſtle, Lanbucklin's pool, Llandrindod wells, &c. &c. Some ſlight traces and imperfect legends are collected of the caſtles at Clirow and Pain's, but they are inſufficient for noticing. Lanbucklin's pool and its ſmall offspring ſtream hath many pictureſque beauties, and it is often frequented by the anglers, who are attracted by the ſuperior ſports of the neighbouring waters of the river Wye.

HAY to BRECON.

This road for about five miles hath a continual courſe upon an eaſtern border of the laſt-named river, from whence the ſight with eaſy action ranges a ſeries of ſmall but beauteous landſcapes lying between the oppoſite edge thereof and the more weſtern Radnorſhire mountains. Eaſtward the ſcenery is more profuſe; the prevailing parts in this are woodland heights, intricate glens, and extenſive arables; and at ſome views there are vapory projections peering into the diſtant proſpective from the vaſt Alterynnis mountains.

After

After the traveller this way hath paſſed the ſmall village of Broynllis, he gains freſh proſpects of the Breconſhire Alps or Van mountains; and nearer the town of Brecon the moſt beauteous parts of the vale of Uſk again appear to him, but with features widely differing from thoſe attained at a nearer inſpection, and they are here the more gratifying by their difference from the ſubjects that have lately paſſed his eye. The firſt notable dwellings near this road are

MAESLOUGH,

The ancient ſeat of the Howarths, now Walter Wilkins', Eſq. M. P. for the county of Radnor; the next is the Lodge, Mrs. Allen's: a ſhort way from the laſt-named, but more to the left hand, is Tregoid, a temporary reſidence of Viſcount Hereford; farther in the ſame way are Gwernevet, of the ancient family of the Williams's; Pont y Wall, the Phillips's; Trebarried, the Vaughan's; Tregunter, the ſeat of the late S. Hughes, Eſq.

When the traveller is near the village of Broynllis, Broynllis caſtle, the village of Talgarth and Dinas caſtle may be obſerved a ſhort diſtance to the left: the firſt conſiſts of a ſingle tower of firm ſtone; the faſhion of it is much like that called Tretower, before deſcribed, both of which are likely to have been raiſed for watch towers or out-guards to

The

The CASTLE of DINAS

Appears from hence upon an elevated ſpot a great way encircled with vaſt mountains, and is near unto the termination of ſeveral deep vales that are formed by theſe mountains. At the time of *Leland's* ſurvey hereof there were manifeſt tokens of wards, offices, parks, and a foreſt, the latter of which, notwithſtanding the decay of its walls, he has deſcribed to have plenty of red deer. When Owen Glendwr committed his depredations on this country, it was deſtroyed by fire to prevent his poſſeſſing himſelf thereof.

" At Talgarth wher is yet the ſhape of a veri fair caſtel now dekeyng, and by was a borow town now alſo in decay; both longgid to the earl of March."—*Leland.* The ſame author alſo deſcribes a priſon, and a fortified manſion of the Vaughan's, to have ſtood there; and there are ſufficient parts of theſe ſubjects left for inſpection to juſtify this deſcription of them.

About five miles from the Hay, upon the laſt deſcribed poſt road, a branch leads from it which is the continuation of the paſſage before adverted to from Hereford, &c.

To BUILTH, RHAIADER and ABERYSTWYTH,

Whereon the traveller details other parts of the beauteous ſcenery ſo peculiar to the borders of the river

river Wye. Mr. *Gilpin* deſcribes its farther appearance on this paſſage with "lofty banks, woody vales, a rocky channel, and a rapid ſtream," and conceives it may be here more beautiful than in any other parts of its courſe.

LLYSWEN

Is within the third mile of this paſſage, ſuppoſed to have been a palace or caſtle, ſome time poſſeſſed by the Britiſh prince Owen; and at this place, according to *Warrington*, the Princes of South Wales have often aſſembled to ſettle the ſeveral differences in their governments. Therrowe, in the ſame pariſh, is an old manſion of Charles Morgan, Eſq. upon the eſtate attached is a conſiderable Roman camp, called Therrowe Warren. Other earth-works of very ancient faſhion abound through this paſſage: the moſt remarkable buildings ſeen from it in the way to Builth are Langoed and Aberedow caſtles.

LANGOED

Was latterly the reſidence of Sir E. Williams, Bart. a family of great antiquity and reſpect; from whom it was lately conveyed by ſale to J. Macnamara, Eſq. Theſe premiſes have ample extenſion, and poſſeſs from nature thoſe gifts of magnificence which, under proper improvement, would perhaps equal any that are elſewhere found in the Principality: ſome of her moſt playful freaks ornament all its homeward ſcenery;

all

all that ſhew themſelves abroad have comely grandeur.

Aberedow caſtle is a ſmall, handſome ruin, ſituated where the little river Eddow ends a perplexed thoroughfare through the mountains of Radnorſhire by falling into the Wye. This road has done bordering the laſt-named river a ſhort way before it enters Builth; at the latter part of the paſſage, the town and ſome vagrant ſtreams of the river have a handſome appearance, being contiguous to more extended heights than have before ſo nearly approached it. Beſides travellers on the thoroughfare that I am now deſcribing, others alſo paſs the town of Builth who travel the way from Llandovery and the parts of Carmarthenſhire, &c. near that town, unto the parts of Radnorſhire which I have to deſcribe, between Kington and Aberyſtwyth; beſides which a road alſo paſſes from

BUILTH to BRECON.

All the firſt part of this paſſage will be found uneven and mountainous, from whence there is a monotony in the proſpects that are alſo tedious; but the parts of it neareſt Brecon are confined to a deep valley, whoſe lofty limits afford more agreeable meditation. Baily Brîth and Caſtle Madoc are in this way; the laſt an ancient reſidence of the family of Powel. In Llandavuilog

vuilog church-yard, which is near this road, former writers have deſcribed a ſtone with the figure of a ſoldier, which ſeems to commemorate Brochmail, ſurnamed Eſcithrave, a prince of Powiſland, who defeated Ethelred, king of Northumberland, on the banks of the Dee, A. D. 617: his ſurname in *Bede*, may refer to Eſkithrag Lanſanfrid. Various tumulus's and intrenchments alſo attach to it, evincing it a paſſage alſo of account to the primary poſſeſſors of the country.

LLANDOVERY to BUILTH.

At ſeveral ſtations which the latter part of this road takes, (before partly noticed,) the rapid ſtream of the river Irvon often ſhapes pictureſque ſubjects beneath the eye, whilſt the hills above are bending with graceful conformity to its borders; the former has excellent trout for the anglers, and fowlers ſometimes find the grouſe abundantly haunting the ſpacious circles of the diſtant mountains. Handſome dwellings are paſſed this way of the families of the Lloyd's, the Gwynn's, and the Thomas's; and at

LWDLOFACH, or LITTLE LUDLOW.

The Barons Marchie, or Lord Marchers, appear formerly to have eſtabliſhed a court of juſtice for the trial of ſmall cauſes, which was ſubject to the ſuperior court of Ludlow, in Shropſhire. A ſhort way from the ſame road, are *Llanwrtyd*

Wells, the ſprings of which have diſtinction for the extreme virtues of their waters in all ſcrofulous and ſcorbutic diſeaſes.

BUILTH

Is a ſmall town, yet its markets are much frequented by thoſe of the country far adjoining, and the faſhions of many of its elder buildings and apparent magnitude of its early fortifications, are great ſigns of its conſideration as an ancient Welch town. The inhabitants here ſuffer great reproach from the over-zealous Welch patriots, upon a vague account that implicates them in treaſon to Llewelyn the laſt ſovereign Prince of Wales, who is thereby deſcribed to have fled to them for protection from the vengeful power of King Edward, and to have been betrayed by them, whence the title of Bradwyr Builth obtains to this day.

DEATH of LLEWELYN.

"After he had fought bravely and with ſucceſs againſt the greateſt powers the Engliſh were enabled to levy againſt him, he ſeparated himſelf from his army, and with a few came to Builth, thinking to remain there quietly for a while; and by chance as he came by the water Wye there were Edmund Mortimer and John Gifford with a great number of ſoldiers, and either party were abaſhed of the other: Edmund Mortimer's men were of that country, for his father was lord thereof.

T. Jones delt. To his good friend T. Jones Esq: this Plate is inscribed by his obliged & faithfull Servant the Author. J. Bluck fecit.

River Wye near Builth.

thereof. Then the Prince departed from his men and went to the valley with his Eſquire alone, to talk with certain lords of the country who had promiſed to meet him there: then ſome of his men ſeeing the enemy come down from the hill, kept the bridge called Pont Orewin, and defended the paſſage manfully till one declared to the Engliſhmen where a ford was a little below, through the which they ſent a number of their men with Helias Walwyn, who ſuddenly fell upon them that defended the bridge in their back and put them to flight. The Prince's eſquire told the Prince as he ſtood ſecretly expecting the coming of ſuch as promiſed to meet him in a little grove, that he heard a great cry and noiſe at the bridge, and he aſked whether his men had taken the bridge; and he ſaid yes; then ſaid the Prince I paſs not, if all the power of England were upon the other ſide; but ſuddenly beheld the horſemen about the grove, and as he would have eſcaped unto his own men, they purſued him ſo hard, that one Adam Francton ran him through with a ſtaff, being unarmed, and knew him not; and his men being but a few ſtood and fought boldly, ever looking for their Prince, till the Engliſhmen by force of archers mixed with the horſemen won the hill and put them to flight. As they returned Francton went to ſpoil him whom he had ſlain, and when he ſaw his face he knew him very well, and ſtruck off his head and ſent it to the King at the abbey of Conway.

way, who received it with great joy, and cauſed it to be ſet upon one of the higheſt turrets of the tower of London. Thus ended the rule of the Princes of Wales, of Britiſh blood, after reigning in this iſland from the firſt coming of Brutus, which was (according to *Dr. Powel)* 1136 years before the Incarnation of Jeſus Chriſt, unto the year 1282 after him, being a ſpace of 2418."—*Enderbie.*

The ſcene of the above intereſting event was a ſhort way from the town of Builth, and near where the river Irvon falls into that of the Wye.

BUILTH to RHAIADER.

This is entered by the way of an handſome ſtone bridge, and ſoon after aſcends a ſeries of variegated high lands, and upon that part of thoſe which has the beſt proſpect of the borders of the Wye, laſt travelled over, is a handſome new-erected manſion of David Thomas, Eſq. Penkerrig, the ancient ſeat of the Jones's, is a ſhort way farther; and on the right of this road one leads to Llandrindod wells, alſo famous for its ſalubrious waters, the account of which I ſhall take occaſion to give, with thoſe of Eddow, in my Tour from Worceſter through Bromyard, Leominſter, Kington, &c. to Aberyſtwyth. [*For the account of* Rhaiader *ſee* GUIDE from Worceſter, to Leominſter, and Kington to Aberyſtwyth]. But before I enter thereon, it is proper I direct from

from hence to thoſe intereſting ſubjects that are found on the northern part of the Pembrokeſhire coaſt, and thoſe at all places attaching to the borders of the river Tivy, whereon continue "vertiginous the mountains, rocks, the woods, the cataracts, and all the hurry which nature is in with her great work about her," and among which the antiquarian and hiſtorian will find their journey equally profitable as that by which I directed them through the latter borders of the river Wye.

RIVER TIVY.

Its ſource is about 20 miles S. W. from the town of Rhaiader, and by a courſe nearly weſt from thence, it reaches the waters of Cardigan Bay. The direct way hereto from Rhaiader is by Pentrebunant, Rhôs Fair and Rhydfandigad, which is a ſpace of 20 miles, the road mountainous, and often imperfect, therefore ſhould never be attempted without a guide. Rhydfandigad is a ſmall village where the little brook Glaſrowd unites her ſtreams to thoſe of Tivy; here are ſmall inns, but like all others within the enſuing 20 miles of this tour, they are ſuch as thoſe of delicate appetites will hardly endure. Rhydfandigad, however, affords ſuch ordinary refreſhments as the laſt weariſome ſtage will make indiſpenſable to all; and here horſes ſhould be ſuffered to prolong their reſt whilſt their riders perform an eaſy walk of about a mile unto Stratta

Florida; or prolonging the journey another ſuch ſpace, they will find the famous

LAKE-LLINTIVY,

The overflowings of which begin the river I have to celebrate: its baſon has nearly a circular form, is about a mile in circumference, and is ornamented with local ſpecimens of picturesque views; its waters yield plenty of trout for the ſports of the anglers, while the vaſt mountains which every way attach to it, have the grouſe and other game which fowlers follow.

STRATTA FLORIDA ABBY.

An ancient Saxon gateway and part of its tower are moſt that remains of this coſtly and once hallowed temple of illuſive ſuperſtition; it was an abby of white monks, founded by Reeſe ap Griffith, prince of Wales, 1164; it was burned down in the wars of Edward the firſt, 1294, and ſoon after re-built, and was valued at 118*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.* it had the ſepulchres of ſeveral Welch princes, whoſe records were kept here from 1156 to 1270, and although they are not marked with elevated materials, trace, or gravings, their honours equally flouriſh under the reſpectable ſhew of peaſants graves which are every way ſhrouding their remains. Theſe grateful prejudices to their illuſtrious anceſtry, always conſpicuous in the Welch, do here ſo far prevail,

vail, ſcarce a week paſſes but the mournful rites of a burial is prolonged by a tedious journey over remote mountains in diſtant pariſhes, unto this awful ſanctuary of decayed nature.

It was of great ſize, ſide aiſled, and croſs aiſled, with a large cloiſter, faratery, and infirmary. It is the property of the family of Nantlos hereafter named. From hence there is a continual carriage-way near the border of the Tivy to

TREGARRON, LANPETER, and NEWCASTLE.

The Tivy through much of its early courſe exhibits a weak and fruitleſs rage; after receiving the Glaſrowd before named, it paſſes ſeveral miles in a ſlow, ungraceful current, but after meeting another mountain river called the Brinnig, it aſſumes a degree of grandeur, always augmenting until overwhelmed in the ſea. This junction with the Brinnig is near the ſmall town of Tregarron. The road from Rhydfandigad to this, leaves the river a ſmall way to the right, and traverſes the feet of ſome verdant mountains, from which much gratification may be acquired by tracing and comparing the towering ſubjects which one way exclude the diſtance to thoſe levels and countleſs hills which other ways lengthen the proſpective.

TREGARRON.

Is a ſmall town, meanly conſtructed; from this a way is made immediately continuing the borders of the river to Llanddewi Brevi; or leaving the river at ſome diſtance to the left, the paſſage unto Lanpeter may be ſhortened.

LLANDDEWI BREVI

Is ſituated near unto where the termination of a deep rocky glen alſo iſſues the tributary portion of her ſprings upon Tivy. It has the appearance of a large unfiniſhed edifice, is ſide aiſled, yet without either pavement or pews, but challenges notice for being the ſeat of a remarkable ſynod of Welch biſhops in 519, for ſtopping the progreſs of pelagianiſm, which at that time ſeemed to be reviving and gaining conſiderable ground in this iſland. The concourſe of biſhops on this occaſion was incredibly great, and St. David oppoſed the hereſy with ſo much ſtrength of reaſoning, that in a great meaſure extinguiſhed it through theſe parts, on which account he was elected metropolitan of all Wales.

Between Llanddewi Brevi and Lanpeter, is Llanver Clydogau, a moſt ancient neglected manſion of the family of the John's. [*See Havod.*]

LANPETER.

This is a tolerable ſized Welch town, and the beſt place for reſt or refreſhment that has been reached

reached ſince Rhaiader; it has large markets, and otherwiſe flouriſhes from its connection with the Breconſhire roads before noticed; from another that paſſes from it to the valley of Ayron hereafter deſcribed; and another which paſſes from it to Carmarthen: another mountain way alſo leads from it to Newcaſtle Emlin and Cardigan; this latter, although it is nearer and better made than that which I am deſcribing, is altogether too far deſtitute of natural or ſuperficial ornaments, in the ſmalleſt meaſure to divert a continuance on the borders of Tivy from Lanpeter to Newcaſtle Emlin.

Pencareg, Llandybether and Llandyſil, are ſmall villages hereon: ſeveral genteel and elegant reſidences are other ways attaching to its vicinity, viz. Dolgom, the Vaughn's; Peterwell, late the reſidence of Sir Herbert Lloyd, Bart. Lanvaughn, Captain Thomas's; High Mead, H. Evans, Eſq. Wineyfore, Thomas Bowen, Eſq. Maſecrigeyo, T. Davies, Eſq. Alttrodyn, D. Lloyd, Eſq. Below Lyndyſil, is Garnos, L. Parry, Eſq. Penyboyly, the Rev. T. Howel's; Bromwyth, T. Lloyd, Eſq. Lyſnewith, William Lewis, Eſq. Dolhaidd, D. E. L. Lloyd, Eſq. of theſe, Bromwyth and Lyſnewith, have moſt particular attractions; the firſt in its copious plantations that all ways hang judicious on its variegated bounds; the laſt in its new and elegant architecture and cloſe attachment to the moſt beautiful

ſcenery

ſcenery in this way. The ſepulchral ſtones and tumuli, and remarkable portions of Britiſh, Roman, and other remains, are perhaps more numerous here than in any part of the Principality; not a mountain any way peers to it, but has been ſomewhere dignified with camp or beacon, whilſt every ford of the river has the reputation of being ſometime guarded with a fort; from this circumſtance it may be thought to have had much earlier appointment as a frontier river than that which we find given to it by the Normans and diſpoſſeſſed Welch through the troubles of the 11th and 12th century.

At Llomllwony hath been an extenſive fortification, an appropriate ſubject for the antiquarian reſearch. It is on a ſmall iſthmus formed by the river, and the ſubject may be marked from far by a ſmall white church that is ſituated near its centre.

GUTHRENION, (or VORTIGERN's CASTLE),

Is a ſhort way farther; its latter title is commonly retained by the elder inhabitants of the country; and there are various other reaſons to ſuppoſe this the ſcene which the early hiſtorians deſigned for the fall of the Britiſh king of that name, although many later ones have drawn it at Radnor Caſtle. "Near it, (ſays *Camden,*) is a vaſt deſart, with dreary irregular paths and frightful

ful mountains, to which, as his ſafeſt retreat, Vortigern, that bane of his country, whoſe memory is held in abhorrence by the Britons, retired to reflect too late on the enormity of his guilt." Thoſe who are any way witneſſes to the ſituations of each ruin, muſt agree in the above opinion, the one now deſcribing being ſtill no ways acceſſible except from the ſea, but through a country of the above deſcription, whilſt it is as evident the obſtacles above deſcribed could never wholly exiſt between the ſituation of Radnor and the more midland part of the iſland, from whence ſuch flight muſt have been directed.

"Hengiſt ſuppoſing that he could not with ſafety enjoy the poſſeſſion of that territory which Vortigern had aſſigned unto him, ſo long as the chief and the moſt valiant of the Britiſh nation remained alive, deviſed, by a cunning practice, to ſurpriſe them; to this end he prepared a ſolemn banquet, at which the king with divers noble perſonages, as bidden gueſts, were preſent; when, having drank immoderately, they were ſcoffed at by the Saxons, and in the end falling from words to blows, in ſuch a furious manner, that the Britons, about 300 in number, were ſlain in the place, and Vortigern, their king, taken priſoner, who ſoon after delivering for his ranſom the whole county of Kent, with other provinces thereunto adjoining, into the Saxons hands, fled to his caſtle in Wales, where ſuppoſing himſelf free

free from danger, he continued his vicious and profane manner of living till in the end both himſelf and his caſtle (as ſome writer affirms,) was by lightning from Heaven conſumed to aſhes."

The bounds of this fortreſs ſeem to have encompaſſed all the elevated parts of a ſmall conic hill which riſes from that edge of the river next the ſouth, (the oppoſite bank thereof is a precipice); a double kirl of looſe ſtones far encircle much of it, and other works of art variouſly indent the earth around. An extravagance of rich ſcenery beſets the attention in all our ſteps from hence to Newcaſtle, ſometimes awful, always beguiling—much is about the village of Llandiſil; the water-fall of Allteafon is as ſtriking as moſt ſubjects of the ſame kind; at Plough Arbour and Hanley Bridge are alſo portions of picturesque excellencies that are rarely equalled in the ſame compaſs of a journey.

Inſtead of entering the town of Newcaſtle Emlyn I leave it to the right, and take occaſion previouſly to purſue the road extending to that part of the ſea coaſt of Pembrokeſhire which was neglected in my former tour through that county, conſidering it more immediately related to the preſent.

Through NEWPORT *and* FISHGUARD *to* ST. DAVID's.

At Pontytriſſey the road croſſes the little river Kych, which ſeparates the county of Carmarthen from that of Pembroke, which the traveller having now entered, proceeds to Eglwgſwrw, catching on either ſide a view of ſeveral gentlemen's ſeats, amongſt the principal of which are Fynnone, an elegant modern ſtructure belonging to Colonel Colby, Pentre Killywendeg, and Pentyderry.

Eglwgſwrw is a ſmall village, with a decent inn, memorable for nothing ſo much as a redundant ſpring, honoured with the notice of the late Sir William Jones's muſe, when he and his brethren of the bar on that circuit were uſed to pay their annual devotion to the Naiad of the fountain.

The ſcene now ſuddenly changes from an upland and rather an unintereſting country to the Vale of Nevern, from which a road on the left diverges to the celebrated druidical monument near Pentre Evan, deſcribed by *Camden*, and another on the right to Nevern, charmingly ſituated in a curiouſly wooded elbow of the valley, dignified with a pretty church, and the ruins of ſome ancient reſpectable buildings. In the church-yard is a ſtone pitched on end, with a Latin inſcription, ſuppoſed to be

the monument of a Roman ſoldier. A private gate which opens into this village, and is unlocked to any genteel paſſenger, leads to the beautiful grounds of Llwyngwair, the ſeat of George Bowen, Eſq. commanding a fine view of the town, caſtle and port of Newport, with Carn Englyn forming a ſublime back ground.

NEWPORT or TREF-DRAETH.

This town has evidently been a place of ſome conſequence, which may be traced by ſeveral ſtreets yet retaining names, interſecting each other, the ruined vacancies in which are filling up very faſt: it was built by Martin of Tours, the Norman conqueror of that part of Pembrokeſhire called Kemes, and became the chief reſidence of his poſterity, who added to its importance by erecting a ſtrong caſtle, which they inhabited, and an handſome church. What remains of the caſtle exhibits a fine ſpecimen of the maſonry of thoſe days, and its ſcite is happily choſen for reſidence as well as defence. The town is a Corporation, with many privileges, and continues to be governed by a portreeve and bailiff, annually elected.

Kemes, of which Newport was the principal borough, was a Lordſhip Marcher, which, though conſiderably abridged of its dignities, is yet of great extent, and is now the property of Thomas Lloyd, Eſq. of Bronwydd, in Cardiganſhire;

ſhire; having paſſed from the Martin's to the Audley family, and then to the Owen's, of Henllys, from whom the preſent proprietor is maternally deſcended.

The river Nevern, which here diſcharges itſelf, in every part of its courſe boaſts of abundant ſcenes of petite beauty; but here preſents a landſcape on the fulleſt ſcale, comprehending all the variety with which art and nature can contribute to enrich it: the rocky ſcenery forming the coaſt here firſt ſolicits our notice, and furniſhes an infinite fund of beauteous compoſition, improving in character as we approach Fiſhguard; in the journey towards which, as in all the preceding part, innumerable dingles croſs your way, refreſhed by lively mountain rills urging their watery tribute through pleaſing intricacies to the main. The dales are hollowed into pleaſing forms, and the hills above are ſingularly creſted with ſcrophulous knobs of a hoary appearance, producing very ſingular effects, and was not planting ſo totally neglected, would ſupply excellent ſtudies for the pencil.

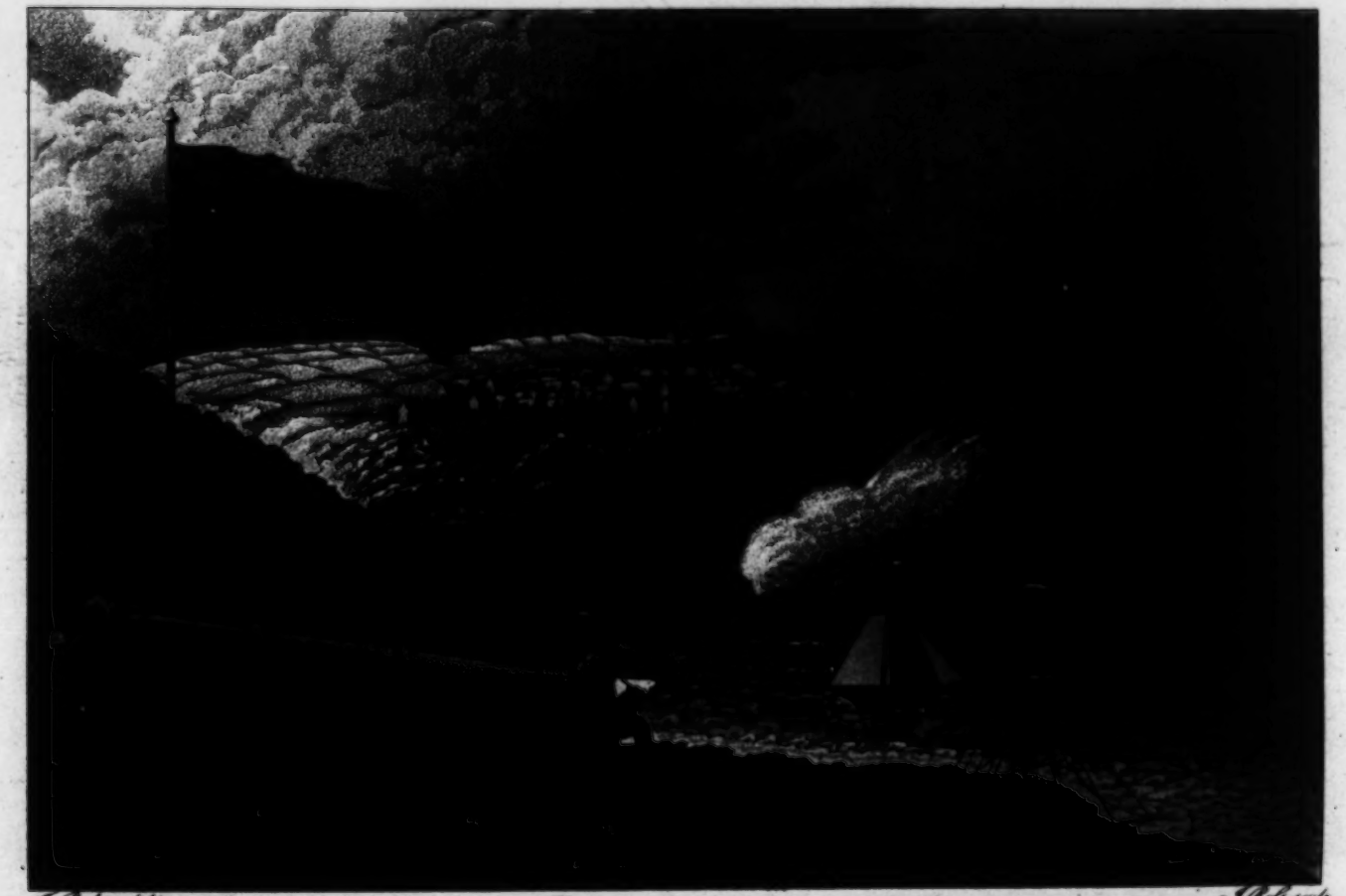
In no part of this county, whoſe peculiar characteriſtic it is to be thick ſown with the manſion-houſes of gentlemen, occurs a greater number than in the diſtrict from Eglwyſwrw to Newport; too many, alas! ruinous and deſerted, but which have been all inhabited within

in this century, when they contributed to form the moſt enviable neighbourhood, and carry on a deſirable commerce of feſtive hoſpitality, a ſyſtem which the chilling ceremonies of faſhionable life bid fair to annihilate.

FISHGUARD, or ABERGWAYN.

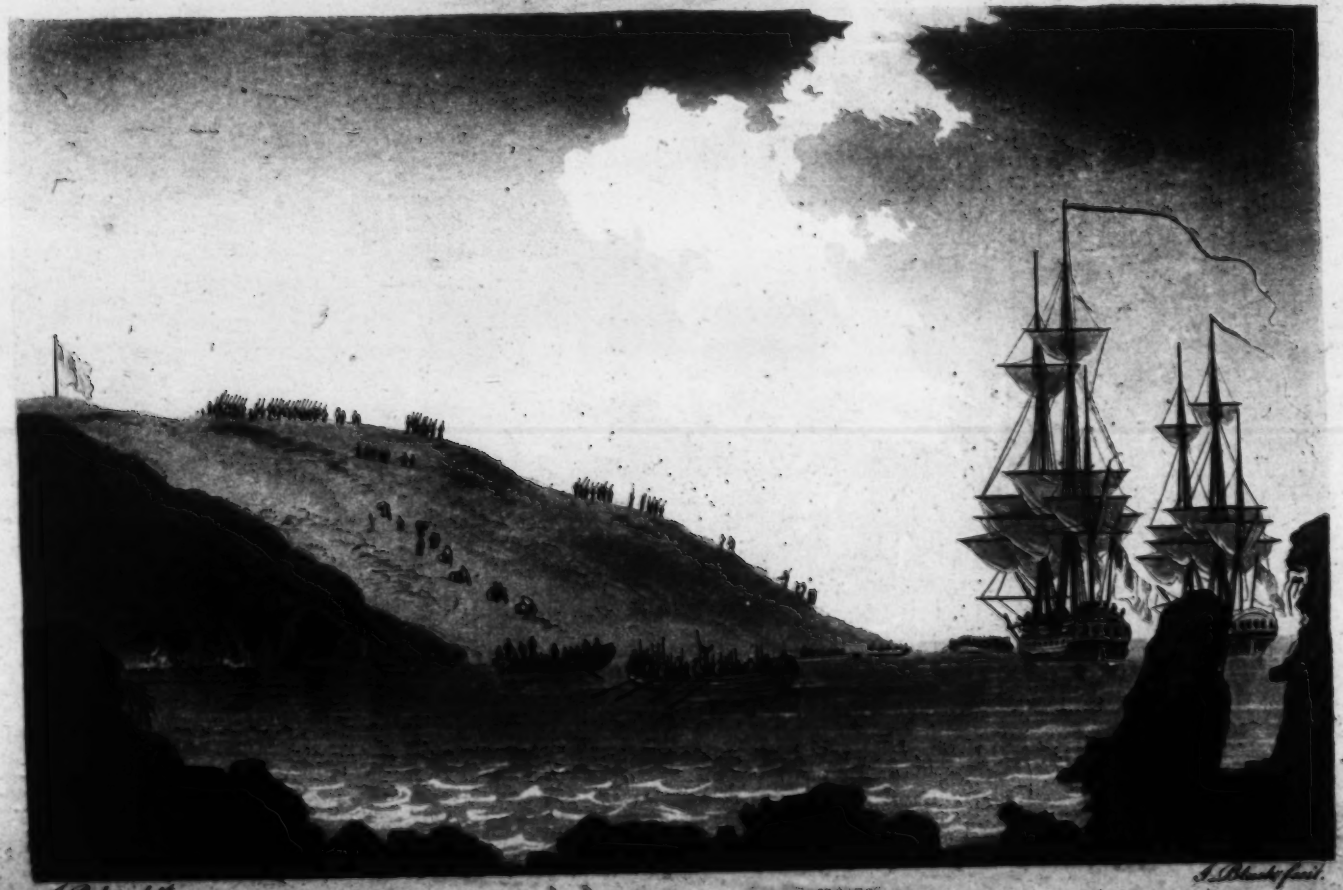
This is rather a populous town, the greater part of which, including the ſhops, ſmall inns, market, church, &c. is ſituated on a lofty eminence above the port formed by the eſtuary of the river Gwayn, which, riſing in the mountain of Perceley, after a lapſe of nine or ten miles through a narrow wooded valley, (which, though pregnant in all its extent with beauty, the traveller, from want of curioſity or information, never penetrates,) reſigns its virgin freſhneſs to the embrace of Neptune. The houſes appropriate to the port, ſkirt the tide; are happily diſpoſed for the purpoſes of trade, and are backed by a pleaſing gradation of diſtances, of which you gain a charming bird's-eye view from a ſpot in the upper town called the Caſtle. The ſhipping and trade of this port are very conſiderable, and daily increaſing, and were its obvious natural advantages turned to the beſt account, vaſt benefit would reſult not only to the place itſelf but to the commerce of the Iriſh channel. The entrance of the harbour is covered by a ſmall battery, and packets not able to make Milford, frequently touch here as a place

of



J. Baker del.t J. Ross sculp.

Fishguard.



J. Baker delt. J. Blunck fecit.

Carngwastad & Ebewalin.

of great ſafety and eaſy acceſs, and a queſtion has been agitated with reſpect to the expediency of ſtationing a packet here, provided a communication was opened between this place and Carmarthen by an old road now diſuſed, by which fifteen miles at leaſt would be ſaved, and an intercourſe between the ſiſter kingdoms accelerated, beſides opening an acquaintance with ſcenes hitherto little known, yet rich with picturesque beauty.

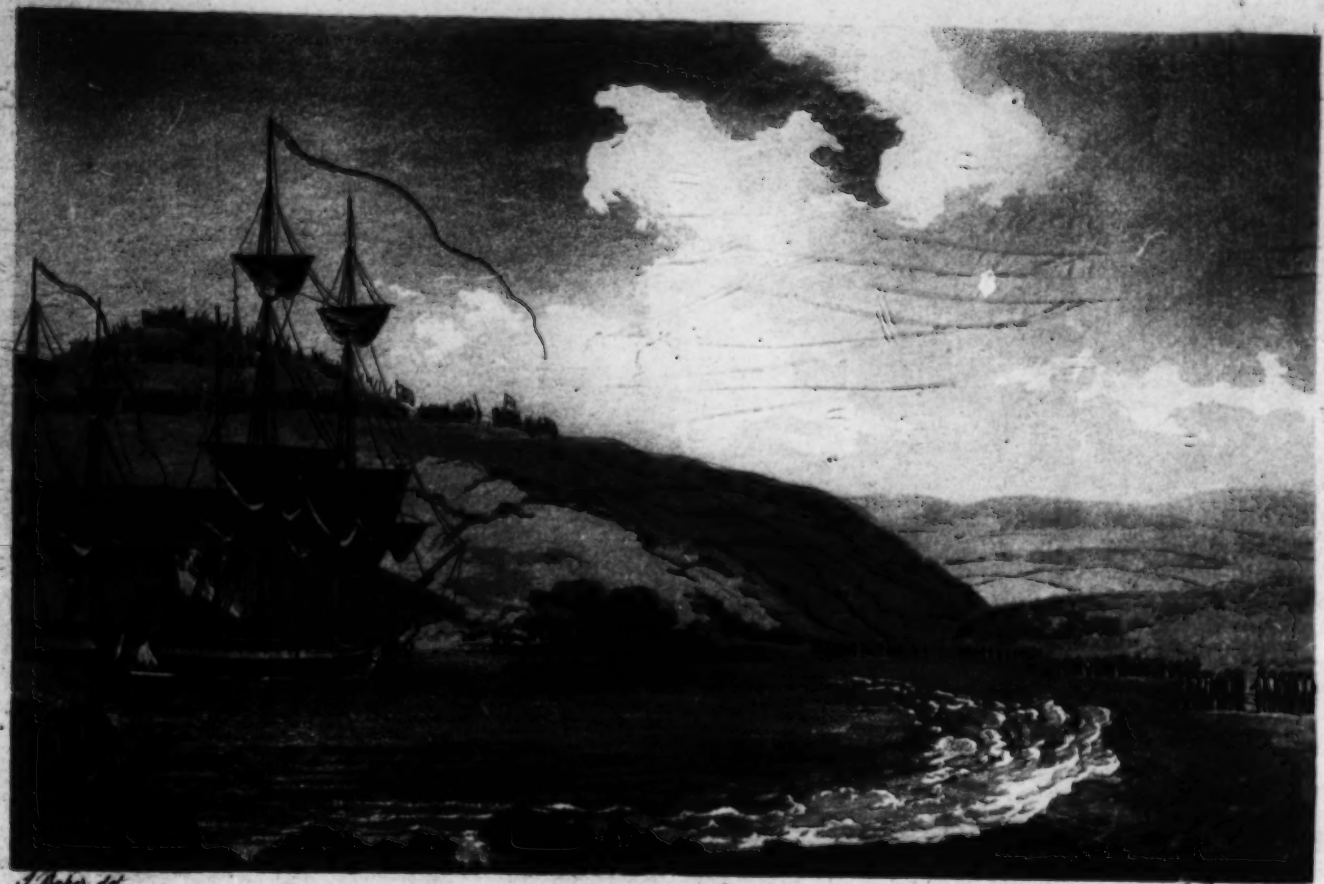
From FISHGUARD to St. DAVID's.

This paſſes the reſpectable village Inidrina, which for ſtation and pictureſque accompaniments yields to few in Wales; at ſome parts it ranges the ſequeſtered dingles and glens of Caſtle Gowad and Temple Druid, the laſt an elegant ſeat of —— Smith, Eſq. near which are ſome curious relicts from which it is named; at other parts of the way a voluminous tract of the Pembrokeſhire and other ſublime hills envelope the attention; and the laſt noticed, not leaſt loveley, are the proſpects into the vale of Gwain. The rivers croſſed this way are the Tave and the Clethy, and there are many mountain brooks of leſs note other ways croſſing it.

The road is cheerful, as carried through a good corn country interſperſed with reſpectable farmhouſes, and having a view of the ſea; but the ſurface on either hand is more uniformly tame

than any other part of this county beſides, and is rarely broken into any variety, poſſeſſing nothing within the limits of the ſight for the antiquary, the painter, or the poet. But the patriot will find himſelf amply gratified by a digreſſion of about two miles to the right of this road, and about an equal diſtance from Fiſhguard to the rocks of Carreg-Gwaſtad and Abervelin, where, on the 22d of February, 1797, a deſperate banditti, conſiſting of about 1300 French felons, &c. in warlike appointment, were haſtily diſembarked from a ſquadron of French ſhips of war, evidently for the purpoſe of harraſſing the natives, and producing a diverſion of the Britiſh troops to this ſide of the iſland, whilſt the enemy had in contemplation more ſerious plans to be directed againſt the other. But by the gallant exertion of a far inferior force of Welch volunteers they were as haſtily compelled to lay down their arms on the neighbouring ſands of Goodwick, which hitherto unconſcious of any thing but the laſhing of the ſolitary wave, will now go down to poſterity dignified by an event that cannot fail to draw along with it the moſt pleaſing ſenſations, if we reflect on the temerity or the fate of the enterpriſe, ſo happily referred to in the following poetical effuſion by a gentleman on the ſpot, under the immediate influence of the ſubject and the muſe, that I hope the inſertion of it, with his permiſſion, will need no apology.

" What



J. Baker del. J. Black sculp.

Goodwich Sands.

"What will not Gallia's frantic ſons deſign,
Unaw'd by laws or human or divine?
A deſperate crew yet livid from the chain
Impos'd by crime in fell Roberſpierre's reign!
With all the lovely charities ſuppreſt,
And each baſe paſſion tyrant of the breaſt!
Monſters in whom Heaven's image is defac'd,
Let looſe on man to make the world a waſte!
Tempeſts in vain the ocean's face deform,
They madly war with him who rules the ſtorm.
To them no terror bring the ſhades of night;
Their deeds are darkneſs and abhor the light.
Albion may boaſt her more than magic zone
Of deep cærulean which begirds her throne—
The ſacred round they impiouſly tranſgreſs
Till freedom trembles in her laſt receſs.
Cambria in vain her rocky bulwark boaſts,
By nature rear'd around her fav'rite coaſts;
From whoſe beſieg'd, yet ſtill unyielding, ſides
Neptune ſhrinks back with diſappointed tides.
An awful ſhade her ev'ry mountain ſheds,
And nods ſtupendous ruin o'er their heads.
Her caves, in vain, unconſcious of the day,
Yawn horror and Tartarean gloom diſplay;
Still with proportion'd inſolence they riſe,
A race of Titans that wou'd ſcale the ſkies;
Yet they—who ev'ry trial had withſtood,
And brav'd all danger take what ſhape it wou'd;
Whom neither rocks, nor ſeas, nor famine gaunt
With all its train of horrid ills cou'd daunt;
Were here confounded that an honeſt race
From ſires invincible poſſeſs'd the place.
The genuine ſons of freedom, doom'd to be
The heaven-appointed guardians of her tree;
From ſpoilers hands to keep its golden fruit,
And puniſh ſuch as wou'd her ſhrine pollute.

The fierce republicans no ſooner tread
That ſacred ſoil, than of Meduſa's head
They own the ſpell, and fit for ſlaves alone,
A horror feel that numbs them into ſtone.
Thus Britons triumph, ſave the work of death:
They came, they ſaw, they conquer'd at a breath.
In foreſt wilds the lion's diſtant roar,
Heard by the ſubject brutes ſo oft before,
A bold contempt inſpires; but raſhly when
They dare to beard the monarch in his den,
Soon as the terrors of his eye they meet,
They fall, for mercy, crouching at his feet:
The yielding prey, already dead with fear,
The generous victor ſpares and ſcorns to tear."

NEWCASTLE EMLIN or ELMELIN,

Is a ſmall imperfect town ſituated upon the border of the Tivy, at the diſtance of twenty miles from where that river influxes with Cardigan bay: it has a ſmall weekly market and conſiderable fairs for cattle. Its name is commonly attributed to the circumſtance that a line of elm-trees have ſometime embelliſhed the borders of the ſtream hereabout; while ſome ſuppoſe it originated from the courſe of the river having formed ſome of the ſhape of the letter *M*. The ruins of the caſtle mark its original extent. It was moſt formidable in its ſituation, the ſummit of a ſmall peninſula, made by the above deſcribed return of the Tivy. According to *Leland*, "it was firſt built by Sir Rheſe ap Thomas in his Lordſhip Elmelin." The ſame author alſo deſcribes

J. Baker del.t J. Black fecit

Newcastle Amlyn.

G.R. III.

ſcribes a foreſt and fenced park to be once attached to theſe premiſes: the town hath few genteel inhabitants, but it contains a good Inn, the Salutation. Killgwin and the Lodge are handſome ſeats near it.

There is a tolerable mountain road paſſes from this town to Carmarthen; another good turnpike road croſſes ſome of the Cardiganſhire hills hence for the ſhorteſt way to Cardigan; but by a ſmall difference in the diſtance the journey is continued upon

THE BANKS OF TIVY

Far as Llechryd, at which the carriage way aſcends from the borders of the river and joins the lofty track above deſcribed; at Llechryd the Tivy becomes navigable: hence the farther diſquiſition of its beautiful and ſublime ſcenery affords ample amuſement for a ſhort aquatic excurſion to the town of Cardigan that alſo borders it, or they are eaſily examined by a pedeſtrian ramble from Llechryd to that town. In few countries of equal extent to this between Newcaſtle to Cardigan, do we meet with ſuch a ſtriking conſtellation of picturеſque beauties; all within reach of the eye is ſo romantically grouped as to produce the happieſt impreſſion on the mind, whether it aſcends the towering woods of Gelly Dowel, (late the ſeat of Capt. Lewis); traces the majeſtic windings of the river, luxuriant among the groves of Stradmoor

moor and Coedmawr, (where are ſeats of the Tayler's and Lloyd's); encounters the magnificent ruins of Killgarran caſtle, or faintly reverts to the mellow diſtances it has left behind.

The firſt object this way which challenges minute inſpection is

KENNARTH FALLS,

More commonly called the Salmon Leap*. Nature may be truly ſaid to *hurry* here, and her produce is a richer ſuit of ſcenery than can be properly deſcribed. The annexed plate delineates ſome of its prominent features. All its proportions are an immenſe amphitheatre into which the Tivy glides amidſt high ſkreens of woods ſurprizing the ſpectator with its antic exerciſes: its ſtay is ſhort upon this enchanting ſtage, until it again ambuſhes amidſt pleaſing intricacies like thoſe it left. About five miles from Newcaſtle is Blânpant, the handſome manſion of W. O. Brigſtock, Eſq. numberleſs other dwellings occupy the vicinity of this river in its way hence to the ſea; that at

LLECHRYD,

Is Sir Benjamin Hammet's, Knt. at which the public-ſpirited proprietor hath revived one of the moſt uſeful manufactories in Wales, by which

* For more minute deſcription of theſe Leaps, ſee that deſcribed on the river Taff. Vol. 1ſt. page 88.

three

J. Bluck fecit.

Kennorth Falls.

Kilgarran Castle

three hundred people are called into conſtant employment; the produce of whoſe annual labours is eſtimated at 12000 boxes of the beſt manufactured tin.

KILLGARRAN CASTLE

Lies about two miles below this; an immenſe range of ſtately ruins, the principal parts of which occupy an iſthmus of ſtone and appear looking from the ſouth bank of the river into its ſtream. The leſſer parts protect its entrance, and nearly attach to the ſmall village of Killgarran. Some attribute its erection to Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strugul; and others to Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Shrewſbury. According to *Caradoc*, it was taken from the Engliſh by Rhys, Prince of Wales, by whom it was afterwards repaired. In the year 1165, it was attacked by the Flemings and Normans, who, after two aſſaults, were beat back and forced to return home. In the wars between Maelgon and his brother Gruffydth, 1199, it was taken by the latter; it was next taken by the Earl of Pembroke; and in 1215, when Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, availing himſelf of the diſtracted ſituation of King John, overran all South Wales, this garriſon ſurrendered without reſiſtance; and in the diviſion made by that Prince, it was given to young Rhys. Moſt of the preſent building ſeems likely to have been erected about the year 1222, when William Marſhal,

Earl

Earl of Pembroke, having vanquiſhed the Welch under the command of Gruffydth, marched to this place, where he is diſcribed to have conſtructed a caſtle; but before he had time to compleat it he received an order from the King to come to him at London, whither he went by ſea leaving his army at Killgarran to continue the work which he had thus begun. Theſe premiſes with the ancient fortreſs of Cardigan and other large poſſeſſions are the property of E. L. Loveden, Eſq.

Much of the ſcenery of thoſe borders of the Tivy that are near Killgarran has been compared to that which embelliſhes the river Wye near Piercefield:* ſome have given it the preference "as very little hath been done to improve nature notwithſtanding its abundant capabilities." In my opinion the ſcenes about Piercefield have a better variety than thoſe appearing from this or any part of the Tivy; if any here excel they are thoſe which ſhew themſelves from ſome ſlips of vallies which like ſtages intervene amidſt its ſkreens: theſe ſkreens are of rocks and woods alternately intermingled, amidſt which the ſublime ruins of Killgarran often agreeably interfere with their perſpective.

Theſe ſlips of level lands moſtly poſſeſs the northern border of the river, and are reached

* See Vol. 1ſt. page 9, 10, 11, &c.

by

by a foot path which leads from Llechryd to Coedmawr: the Tivy is here ſeen iſſuing from her late tremendous channel to take a ſhort courſe with more enlarged ſurface and level border. At Cardigan other rocky bounds partially contract its ſpace, where is a handſome ſtone bridge, the paſſage of which was completely protected by

The CASTLE of CARDIGAN,

Which was the work of Gilbert, ſon of Richard de Clare, who poſſeſſed this country by gift from Hen. I. and it was deſtroyed by Prince Rhys.

The TOWN of CARDIGAN,

Like the caſtle, is on the north of the river; it was called by the Britons Aber Tivy; it has ſeveral handſome dwellings, many faſhionable inhabitants, decent inns, a commodious town-hall, where are held the ſeſſions for the county, and beſides the traffic of its markets, fairs, &c. it has much commerce with the other ports of Cardigan Bay, and conſiderable exports are made from hence to England and Ireland. Here was anciently a priory of black monks, cell to Chertſey in Surry, and a chapel erected on the ſpot, where Giraldus's friend, Archbiſhop Baldwyn, ſtood when he preached up a cruſade.

About the midway between Cardigan and the eſtuary of Tivy, upon the left border of the river, is

St. DOGMEALS ABBEY,

Which was founded for Benedictines, or the reformed order of Tiron, by the afore-mentioned Martin of Tours, in whoſe lordſhip it was ſituated. It fell by marriage to Lord Audley; Hen. VIII. granted it to one Bradſhaw, whoſe deſcendant, John Bradſhaw, occurs as ſheriff of the county of Pembroke, A. D. 1571. Its building appears to have been more commodious than coſtly; its remains conſiſt chiefly of diſordered portions of gable ends and imperfect walls, ſituated near the termination of a ſmall mountain ſtream, partly encompaſſed with hills; from the latter of which there are rich proſpects of the country: the objects which they comprehend adjacent are, much of the town of Cardigan, its river and vaſt rifts of rock, which guard its entrance, and otherwiſe grace the coaſt near it, whilſt a vaſt tract of the inland country alſo attaches to the whole: the beſt choſen part of theſe heights for taking ſuch views is

PLAS NEWYDD,

The handſome dwelling of Sir Watkin Lewis, Knt. ſome portions of which, with Plas Newydd (agreeable to a projected improvement) fill the annexed plate.

Thus

Thus have I followed the Tivy, if I may uſe the expreſſion, from its cradle to its grave; and much as I have been ſeduced by its faſcinating mazes, I have been ſometimes pained when viewing its bounds at ſomething like the reproaches of nature for the intolerable neglect of her rich gramineal offerings, but this obſervation moſtly applies to my early part of its traverſe; nearer its termination, on its more highly cultivated banks, the beſt examples of huſbandry are ſometimes exhibited, particularly by Dr. Stephens and Sir Benjamin Hammet.

Thoſe travelling from the ſouthern parts of Pembrokeſhire, Haverfordweſt, &c. to Cardigan, will find a mountainous way by the Withey Buſh, New Inn, &c. this at moſt ſeaſons of the year is likely to prove an uncomfortable paſſage, and wholly unintereſting to the moſt induſtrious touriſt; on this conſideration I adviſe one that takes a more ſouthern direction through Fiſhguard, Newport and Navern, lately deſcribed, and which continues thence by Navern and St. Dogmeal's; the firſt part of this paſſage leads through fine woods that are over-hanging the river Clethy, at the entrance of which the immenſe rocks of Trefgarne raiſe their ſublime ſhapes and forms above the uſual level of the lands near them: theſe rocks are remarkable for involving large maſſes of porphyry, and having an ancient encampment on their ſummit.

R. Bowen,

R. Bowen, Eſq. Miſs Vaughan, William Knox, Eſq. J. Harris, Eſq. J. Edwards, Eſq. J. Prothero, Eſq. and — Vaughan, Eſq. (the Governor of Fiſhguard-fort,) have good manſions in this diſtance.

Upon the higheſt ſpot of land that is croſſed between Navern and Cardigan, are three curious tumuli; ſuppoſed, by ſome, ſepulchral remains of the ancients, while others think they are more agreeable to the characters and ſtations of the ancient beacons. The views from this ſtage are variegated and extenſive: whether the eye is drawn over the glaſſy bay from cliff to cliff almoſt to St. David's head, or traces the ſinuous coaſts of Cardigan, Merioneth, and Carnarvon, to Bardſey Iſland. In its country traverſe the landſcape is often endleſs and undeterminable, but at ſome points of view great beauty and ſublimity plainly characterize it.

CARDIGAN to ABERAYRON and ABERYSTWITH.

This is an agreeable continuation of the road on the coaſt of Cardigan Bay: extenſive military earth works are on the heights nearly adjoining it, and at Caſtell Madolig, which is in the ſame line of country, there hath evidently been a fortification according with its preſent name; the foundations of its various parts are extenſive and eaſily traced.

At

At about the midway between Cardigan and Aberayron is a good houſe for refreſhment, called the New Inn: all the lands ſeen through this ſtage, and great tracts of others that are contiguous, are only deſolate for want of dreſs, being commonly eligible to the deſigns of good huſbandry; the higheſt parts are in the medium between mountains and hills, only ſmall parts whereof are below the uſual altitude of a champaign. Between the New Inn and Aberayron they are ſometimes broken into a more agreeable variety: there is a genteel dwelling of the Reverend Mr. Turner's this way; another is the ancient ſeat of the Lloyd's.

NEW KEY

Is a ſmall ſea-port near this road, moſtly uſeful to coaſting veſſels and thoſe driven by foul winds out of the Iriſh channel. Lavina has a pleaſant ſituation near it, the ſeat of Edward W. Jones, Eſq.

ABERAYRON.

Here is one of the beſt country Inns through all the weſtern parts of South Wales; it is called after the village where it is ſituated, being the moſt conſiderable portion thereof. The river Ayron which falls into the ſea, here paſſes like its neighbour the Tivy nearly from the eaſt to its influx therewith, but hath a much ſhorter progreſs and leſs abundant current. The vale that contains it hath alſo a conſiderable portion of beauty,

and is traverſed by a good turnpike road, which leads paſſengers from hence by Lanpeter to various parts of the counties of Brecon and Carmarthen; ſeveral genteel families have alſo made it their abode, viz. the Lloyd's, the Davis's, the Vaughan's, the Jones's, and that of Major Lewis: the laſt has a neat and new erected manſion from a plan of *Naſh's*.

Within this valley was alſo anciently a religious ſeminary, but no portion of it now remains. Conſiderable entrenched works of the ancients have been made near its termination, which are ſeen at entering the road hence to

ABERYSTWITH,

To which place it begins its courſe on an agreeable level near the reach of the tides. After paſſing the ſmall village of Llanrwſtwid it takes a more inland courſe, ſometimes aſcending very eminent ſtations from whence the immeaſurable proſpects of land and water challenge delighted attention. Near Llanrwſtwid are ſome remarkable ſepulchral monuments.

Worceſter to *Bromyard, Leominſter, Kington, Rhayader,* and *Aberyſtwith.*

This road leaves the city by way of St. John's: after three miles travel, a large avenue of thrifty lime trees direct the paſſenger's notice to Cotheridge, the ancient manſion of Rowland Berkeley, Eſq.

Eſq. All the landſcape hereto paſſed ſeems over-charged with dull monotony, but at a ſhort travel farther its character changes. Eaſtward is a deep valley thickly ſet with willows, where meanders the little river Team; and weſtward the lands undulate in little woodland hills, whoſe intervening dales are richly ſet with arable and fruit plantations. At Knightſford Bridge, about eight miles from Worceſter, the road paſſes the river Team and enters

HEREFORDSHIRE,

where elevated portions of fertile lands continue thickly crowding upon the ſight through all this edge of the county, like thoſe I have deſcribed to prevail through much of the eaſtern parts thereof: nearer its centre the hills increaſe in ſize but not in beauty. The genteel reſidences thus paſſed are thoſe of the Chambers's, the Freeman's, the Danzie's, and the Barneby's: the laſt named is one of the moſt delightful poſſeſſions in this part of the country, and called Brockhampton; it is every where planted with a rich aſſortment of woods and ſhrubs: the houſe too is of excellent faſhion and well finiſhed. At the near approach to Bromyard a handſome manſion (Bucknell) alſo appears within a valley that is north of the town, the ſeat of the Tomkins's.

At Knightsford bridge a good turnpike road leads on the right hand from this part of the paſ-

ſage to Martley, the Hundred Houſe, Stourport, &c. &c. *See* GUIDE *to* LUDLOW, *&c.*

BROMYARD

Is a ſmall irregular market town, ſituated near the riſe of the ſmall river Frome. The church here is of ſingular conſtruction, and hath much antiquity: it was once collegiate, and had canons and prebendaries. The principal thoroughfare of this town, beſides that I am deſcribing, is made by thoſe who travel between Worceſter and Hereford: their paſſage from hence to the laſt named place lies by Marvale, Stoke Lacy, &c. near to which the Rev. Mr. Griffith hath a handſome manſion; and at Stretton, which is in the ſame line of country, was an ancient manſion of the Grandiſon's, of which family was a Biſhop of Exeter; this is near where the little rivers Frome and Lodden have a junction, and where was anciently a Roman camp of conſiderable magnitude.

BROMYARD to LEOMINSTER.

This road begins with ſmall aſcents, whence Bromyard ſhews ambuſhed within various well-decked heights, and is otherwiſe richly adorned with vaſt fruit plantations, whoſe bloſſoms in Spring yield abundant refulgence to the picture, as in Autumn (when this deſcription was forming) it is enriched with the hues of mellowing fruits. "A little while ago I beheld them, and all was one

one beauteous boundleſs waſte of *bloſſoms*; the eye marvelled at the lovely ſight, and the heart rejoiced in the proſpect of autumnal plenty; but now the blooming maid is reſigned for the uſeful matron, the flower is fall'n, and the fruit ſwells out on every twig." Other parts of the road hence take a ſtately courſe over the vaſt tract of Hegton hill, whoſe altitude is ſuppoſed equal to any land in the county of Hereford, and it is otherwiſe celebrated for producing the beſt crops of grain.

The ſeats this way are thoſe of Mr. Severn, Mr. Coley, the Rev. Dr. Dale, and the Rev. Mr. Evans; and near to Leominſter is Eaton, where, according to *Leland*, "one Hacklet ſet up a houſe and had one St. George, a nobleman of France, for his priſoner." Mr. Tayler, in his map of Herefordſhire, hath alſo marked three camps, which form a line near the courſe of it, whence it may be conjectured a paſſage of very early traverſe.

LEOMINSTER,

Is an ancient and conſiderable market and borough town, richly inhabited, and of conſiderable trade. It was firſt called Loveminſter, from a monaſtery built here, 600, by Prince Merwald; others ſuppoſe its name is derived from linum, the latin name of flax, which is ſaid to have been abundantly cultivated near it. Here was a college of prebendaries and an abbey of

of nuns; the church is large and beautiful, and there is a market place, challenging notice as an excellent ſpecimen of ancient workmanſhip in wood. It was built by one John Abel, the moſt famous architect of his day; he alſo built the market houſes of Brecon, Kington, and Hereford; when the Scots beſieged the laſt, he conſtructed ſome uſeful mills for the beſieged upon a new principle, for which he was honoured by King Charles I. with the title of his Majeſty's carpenter: at Sarnesfield church is a monument which he engraved for himſelf after he was ninety years of age. Various charitable eſtabliſhments have at times been founded and endowed here, ſome of which ſtill proſper. A palace was alſo near the town, called Comfort Caſtle, the reſidence of the above Prince, now decayed. The town is partly encircled with the little rivers Lug, Pinſley or Oney, and Arrow, the latter of which, after a courſe of about thirty miles, here loſes its name by its influx with the former. The town is inveſted with rich meadows, and the diſtant parts have the fineſt ſoils in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation; and beſides its abundant fruits and grain thence produced, it greatly abounds with cattle and ſheep, the latter of which have been immemorably celebrated for the richneſs of their fleece.

LEOMINSTER to KINGTON.

The villages in this diſtrict are by Monkland one way and by Eardiſland another, both which roads

roads have about equal lengths from the laſt deſcribed town unto where they again meet each other at Pembridge. Near unto Monkland was the ancient church of Lena or Lleian Ininſter. Lleian, in the Welch language, ſignifying a nun, there having been a great nunnery here, which in the time of William Rufus belonged to the Benedictine monks of St. Peter's.

PEMBRIDGE

Is a compact village of ſome ſize, (once a market town); the church is large and ſhews elegant workmanſhip; is croſs-aiſled, with three chancels; the ſteeple is at a diſtance from the other building, and is of meaner architecture like a temporary deſign.

Near the church of Linſhall or Lions Hall, which this road paſſes, was anciently a caſtle or fortified manſion, the firſt lords of which were the family of Marbarres, by the heir general of which it came afterwards to the honorable family of Devereux, and it is now the Marquis of Bath's. The park, rich in oak timber, ſtill extends itſelf near this place; but no trace of the primitive grandeur of the caſtle remains. The roads thus deſcribed, have beginning in a level courſe near unto the track of the little river Arrow; but much variety of high lands which at length ſkirt the northern borders of this county, are always ſeen from it. The brilliant parts of this latter landſcape are Shobdon hills,

hills, Eywood, and ſome of the domains of Croft, the poſſeſſions of Lord Bateman, Earl Oxford, and the family of Johnnes. The Warren and Burgh hill, which are alſo in the ſame line of country, are ornamented with ancient encampments, but none have records ſufficiently to aſcertain their origin or after-uſes. At Stanton-upon-Arrow, which is a ſhort way to the right of Pembridge, are evident marks of an extenſive military building. The modern dwellings contiguous to the way, are thoſe of the family of Kinnerſly, the Evans's, Bruſton's, the Thomas's, the James's, and the Whitcomb's. A good turnpike road leaves the one laſt deſcribed, about a mile from Leominſter, which takes a more ſouthern direction to Dilwin, Kinnerſly, Weobly, &c. In the firſt part of this way, Ivington camp, Weſt Hope hill, and Burly hills, are vaſt high lands that every way exalt the proſpects next the ſouth, as the hills of Shobdon, &c. above named, are here alſo ſtill retaining much of their intereſt in the oppoſite views: near the latter part of this tour, Robin Hood's Butts and Wormſly hill are found lengthening the ſkreen ſouthward far as the lofty range of Lady Lift, which terminates the exceſſive heights on that quarter.

DILWIN

Hath ſeveral neat houſes and ſeveral reſpectable inhabitants; many have alſo poſſeſſions in its vicinity. In the church are ſome coſtly monuments

ments to the honorable family of Carpenter, who formerly reſided at the Hom, in the ſame neighbourhood; of theſe was a Lord Tyrconnel and a Counteſs Dowager Tyrconnel, whoſe eſtates are now in the family of Peploe Birch, Eſq. Near this place the road hath a diviſion, the right branch of which leads by Kinnerſly and Sutton to the Hay road heretofore deſcribed, whilſt the left reaches

WEOBLY,

Which conſiſts of a few ſmall ſtreets, meanly conſtructed, without either market or traffic to eſtabliſh its title to the rank of town, yet hath the advantage of ſending two Repreſentatives to the Commons of England, and is otherwiſe diſtinguiſhed for having "a goodly caſtle," as *Leland* terms it, which was fortified by the partiſans of Maud the Empreſs, againſt King Stephen; its ſtation is eaſily traced by the raiſed earth, but all other materials of the once venerable pile have been long removed from the place. Weobly was formerly the barony of the Verdons, from whom it came to the Ferrers's, then to the Devereux's, and is now the Marquis of Bath's. Here is a neat church, ornamented with curious antique monuments.

At Wormſly, ſituated ſouth eaſt of Weobly, was a priory founded about the reign of King John, by Gilbert Talbot, for black canons of the or-

der of St. Victor—the priory dedicated to St. Leonard. Harlington is a handſome ſeat near this, on the above deſcribed eſtates, which had once a family of the Baſkervill's its poſſeſſors; others deſcribe a caſtle here called Huntington Caſtle, which was the Bohun's, Earls of Hereford. Brinſop Court and the Grainge, the ancient reſidences of the families of Danzey's, Knight's, Sawyer's, and Birch's, are alſo in its vicinity.

KINNERSLY

Is on that branch of this road that leads from Dilwin toward the Hay before noticed. It was once the ſeat and lordſhip of the ancient family of Delabere, one of which was knight of the ſhire the 43d of Edward the 3d; and was alſo the reſidence of Sir John Morgan: it is a grand, antique, well-preſerved edifice, and worthy curious inſpection; it is now the poſſeſſion of Major Clutton.

Near Linſhall, before deſcribed, another principal road joins the ſtage which comes from

HEREFORD to KINGTON,

and is commonly made the paſſage thence to Aberyſtwith. Near the firſt part of this paſſage, on the right hand, is ſeen on a vaſt hill near the road, Credon Hill Camp, an immenſe intrenchment, the foſs of which is outward as well as inward, encircling by eſtimation forty acres of land.

Ac-

According to the opinion of Dr. Salmon, this was firſt poſſeſſed by the Romans, the innermoſt ditch being ſince added by the Britons, Saxons, or Danes; he eſteems this their explanatory camp, and

KENCHESTER or BLESTIUM,

which is alſo contiguous, their city. This is now commonly called Kincheſter Walls. According to Dr. *Gale*, the ancient ſite of this was oval, and poſſeſſed from fifty to ſixty acres, with four gates or openings, two on the weſt, two on the north ſide; near the eaſt was part of a temple with a niche five feet high and three wide; the walls then encircled the city, but there does not appear to have been either ditch or foſs around them; arched vaults, teſſelated pavements, lead pipes, Roman bricks, urns and coins have been found, and latterly great quantities of charked wheat and wood, which gives reaſon to ſuppoſe its final diſſolution was by fire. Surveying this ſubject Dec. 8, 1796, I diſcovered a rough ſtone bearing the following Roman inſcription. It was raiſed the preceding day by ſome workmen employed to dig materials for the repair of the roads near it; the ſhape was an imperfect ſquare; it was found ſet in indiſſoluble mortar 10 feet in the earth, evidently part of the foundation of theſe ancient walls. The following is a near copy of its characters:—IMPC ΑΛΛR : ΛVR NUMORIΛN oRPG D.

The

The next lofty lands ſeen from this road are the ſouthern aſpects of Lady Liſt and Wormſly, and which this way form a large curve, within the circle of which, at an agreeable diſtance from the road, is

FOXLY,

The elegant manſion and ample eſtate of Uvedale Price, Eſq. Rides are often taken from hence upon the ſummits of the above named hills, from whence the proſpects are extremely gratifying and extenſive; they comprehend moſt of the fertile tracts of low lands that border the river Wye weſtward, and many of the large heights which I have had occaſion to remark through my former journies in this county:—other genteel dwellings near the road are Col. Price's, T. W. Weſton's, Eſq. and the Hon. A. Foley's. A road alſo paſſes from

LEOMINSTER to HEREFORD

By the villages of Wharton, Hope, Wellington, Pipe, and Holmer.

HAMPTON COURT,

In this way, ſome account to be erected by one Sir Lenthall, yeoman of the robes to King Henry 4th, whoſe daughter or near kinſwoman he afterwards married. This Lenthall is alſo numbered among the victors at the battle of Agincourt, and from the prizes of that victory is ſaid to

to have accompliſhed this building. Under an original portrait here of Henry 4th, is the following leſs diſputable authority—" Henry 4th, King of England, who laid the firſt ſtone of this houſe, and left this picture in it when he gave it to Lenthall, who ſold it to Cromwell, of Bamfield, who ſold it to the anceſtors of Lord Coningſby, in the reign of Henry 6th; from hence, by deſcent, it hath devolved to Lord Viſcount Malden." Hampton Court, in its ruſtic grandeur, hath been eſteemed one of the greateſt ornaments of its kind in the county of Hereford; its adjoining park hath been eſtimated at eight miles in circumference, the whole profuſely ornamented with woodlands, lawns and waters. Exceſſive pains and expence hath at times been uſed by the preſent noble proprietor to modify parts thereof agreeable to the later practices in architecture and pictureſque gardening: ſome applaud theſe labours, and by ſome they are condemned, in that they have deſtroyed ſuch excellent examples of the genius and magnificence of other ages.

Theſe premiſes are divided from the road by the river Lug; leaving its borders, the road is haſtily elevated upon Dinmore hill: exceedingly beautiful and extenſive views every way face the deſcents from hence; one taken from its higheſt ſouthern brow is particularly ſtriking—it is a viſta formed by a wood which at this place edges

the road; moſt of its proximate parts are extenſive tracks of richly cultivated levels; near the ſouthern extremity of which, at the ſpace of about ſeven miles, the city of Hereford intereſts the eye: its more diſtant parts are the extreme ſouthern end of Herefordſhire, and thoſe heights of Monmouthſhire adjoining.

Near the centre of Dinmore was an ancient religious eſtabliſhment which ſome time belonged to the order of St. John of Jeruſalem in London. The figure of St. John was placed over the door, and on a window of the houſe an inſcription to this effect: "St. John be our pledge or defence."

Marden and Sutton are a ſhort way to the left of this road; the latter, commonly called

SUTTON WALLS,

Will not fail to catch the eye of the traveller: it is famous for being the reſidence of the great King Offa, and the ſcene of Ethelbert's murder.* It was the entire covering of a ſmall hill that lieth about a mile and half from the road: the entrenchments that circled it were of vaſt depth, and are plainly diſtinguiſhed at this diſtance.

The private genteel dwellings this way are thoſe of the families of Clerk's, Berrington's,

* See Vol. II. p. 156.

and

and Edwards's in the firſt part of the paſſage; at the latter part thereof are thoſe of the Goodhere's, the Caſwell's, the Unit's, and the Caldint's.

END OF VOL. II.